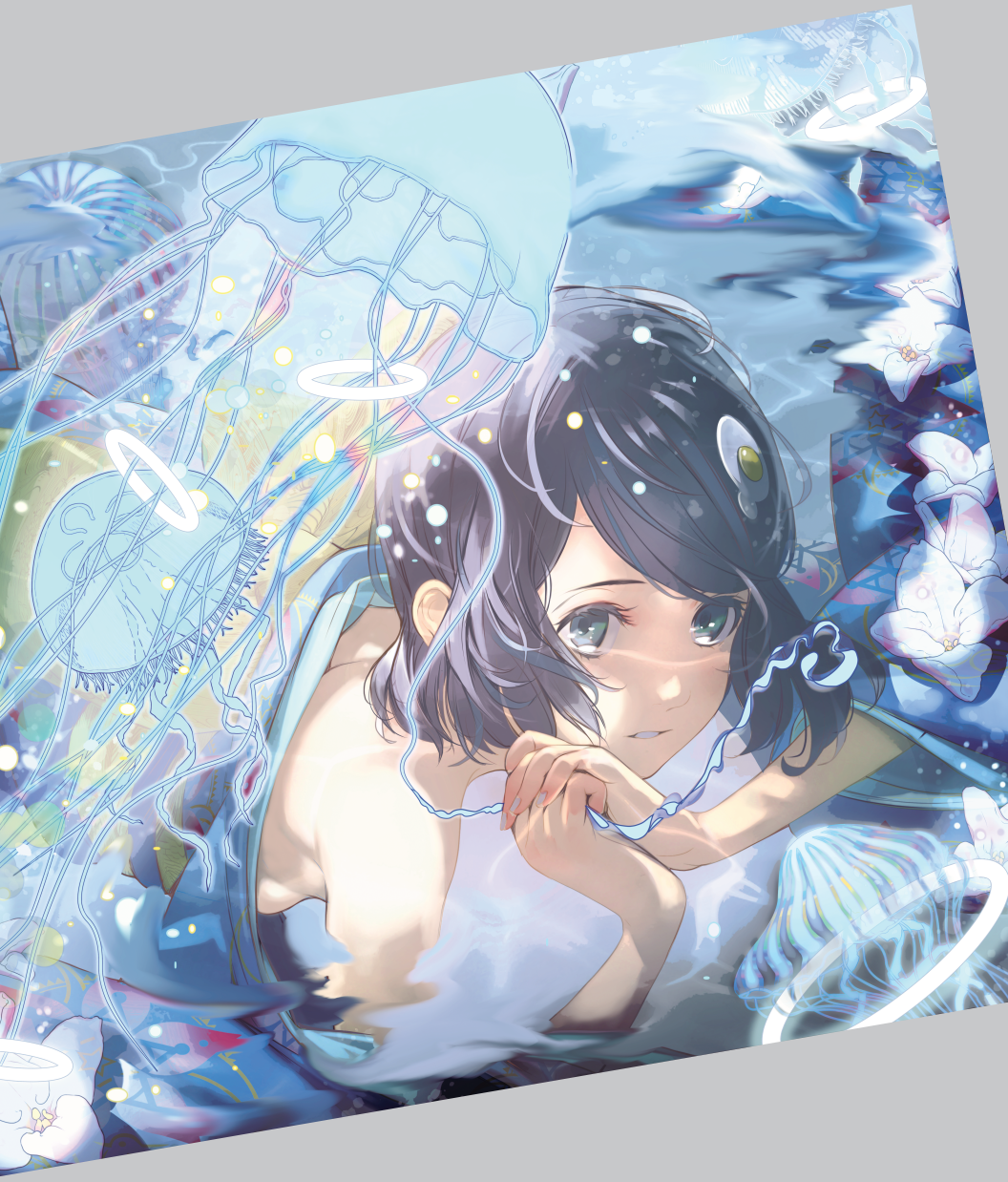
BAKEMONOGATARI
18
OH!GREAT
Original Story:
NISIOISIN
Original Character
Design: VOFAN



化物語十八

BAKEMONOGATARI

OH!GREAT

Original Story:
NISIOISIN

Original Character
Design: VOFAN

18

MAIN CHARACTERS

Mayoi Hachikuji

A ghost girl, who once got lost because of a snail before being saved by Koyomi.

Koyomi Araragi

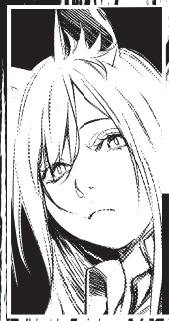
A boy and a "mockery of a vampire." He feels he owes a debt to Hanekawa, who is being tormented by an aberration, and so he is now busy trying to save her.

Suruga Kanbaru

Koyomi's junior, who once made a wish to a monkey before being saved by him.

Nadeko Sengoku

Koyomi's little sister's friend, who was once constricted by a snake before being saved by him.

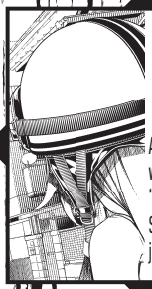


Tsubasa Hanekawa

Koyomi's classmate and an honor student that few honors could sufficiently describe. She has feelings for Koyomi and has been bewitched by a cat.

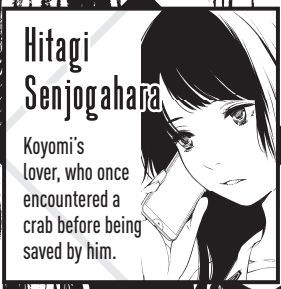
Black Hanekawa

The aberration known as an Afflicting Cat, or *sawarineko*, which has manifested in Hanekawa.



Shinobu Oshino

A husk of a vampire, who was once called the "king of aberrations." She has set off on a journey of self-discovery.



Hitagi Senjogahara

Koyomi's lover, who once encountered a crab before being saved by him.

THE STORY SO FAR

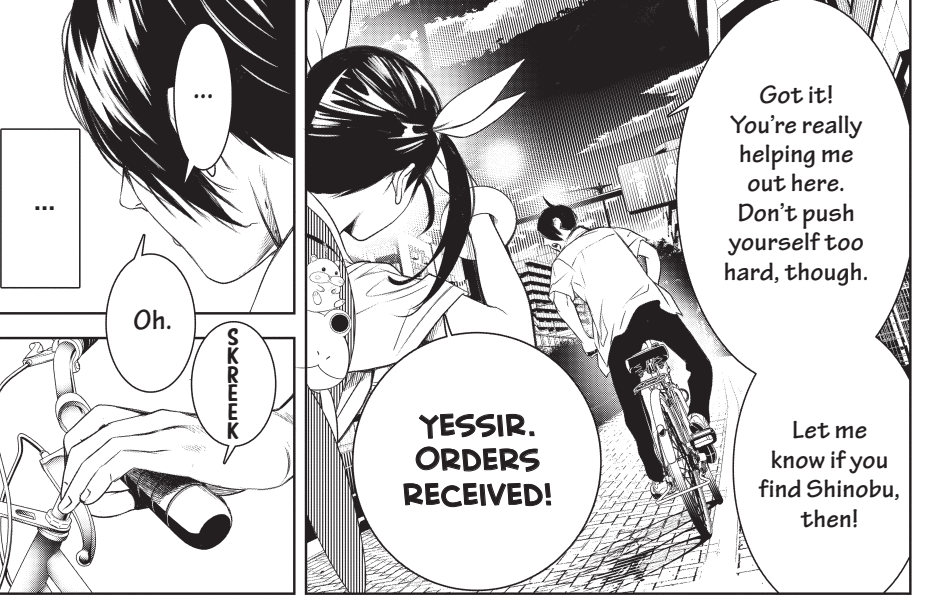
The aberration known as the Afflicting Cat has reappeared, even though the issue was thought to have been settled during Golden Week. And things only get worse when Shinobu, who could have helped in the fight against this cat, suddenly leaves home and vanishes without a trace. Koyomi now runs wildly through the streets at night to save Hanekawa from the aberration that torments her and to find Shinobu, who cannot live apart from Koyomi. Today is also June 13, the day Koyomi promised to go on a date with Senjogahara. It should be a day to remember—one where his personal hell would come to an end... or at least, that was the plan.

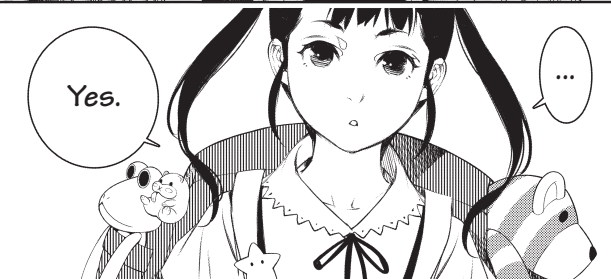
Chapter 5 Tsubasa Cat
BOOK DESIGN VEIA

RAKEMONOGATARI

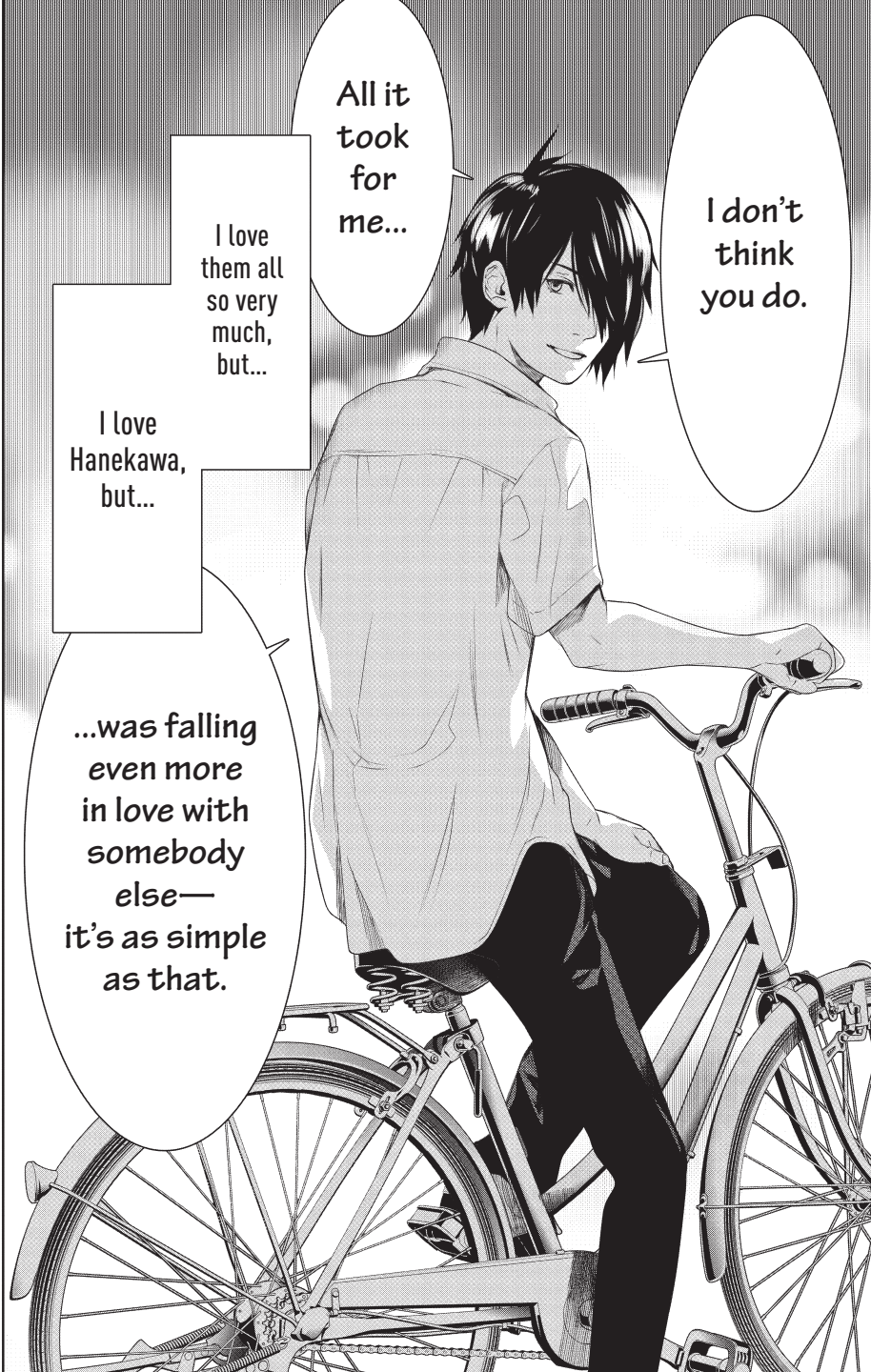
Mister Araragi, you can't allow yourself to get too minused.
Please do stay strong.
I know you get words wrong a lot, but you're crossing a line right now.
Er...
Well.
Now that I think about it, it's pretty late...
I guess... that... well...

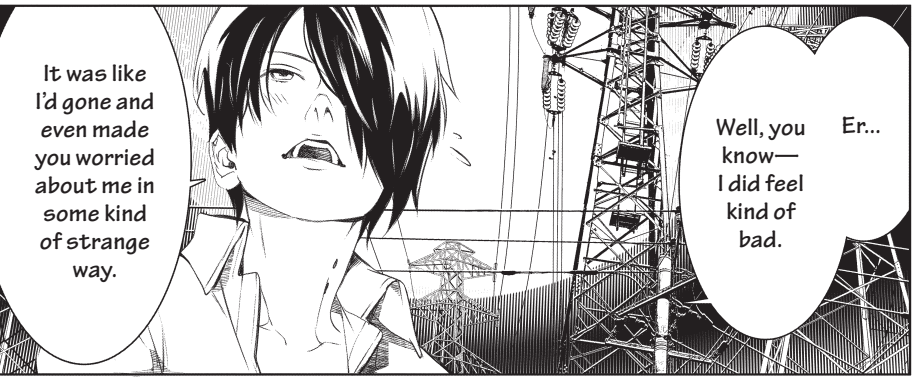
WHOOOSH
BLURBLE
BLURBLE
IF ANYTHING, THIS IS WHEN I REALLY GET GOING. I'M BRIMMING WITH ENERGY AT THIS HOUR.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? I'M A GHOST, YOU KNOW.
I...WILL...GET...MY...REVENGE...





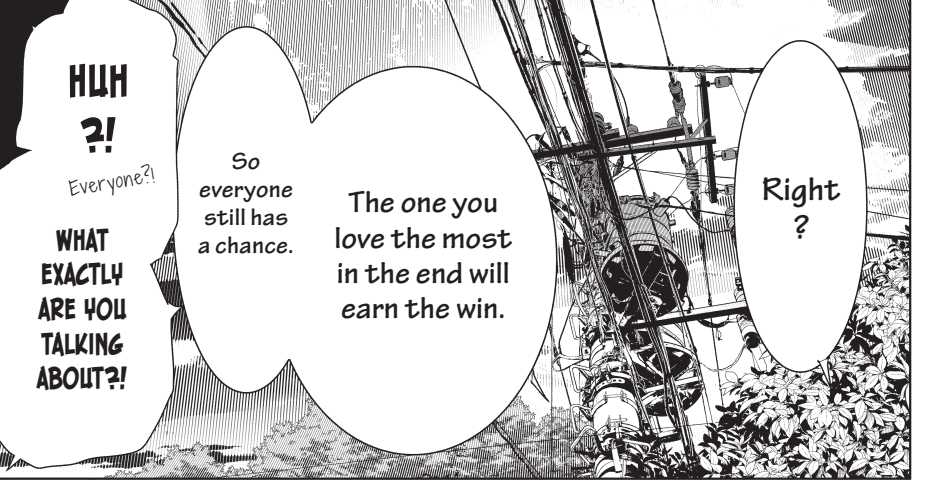
When she said that, she must have been talking about Hanekawa.

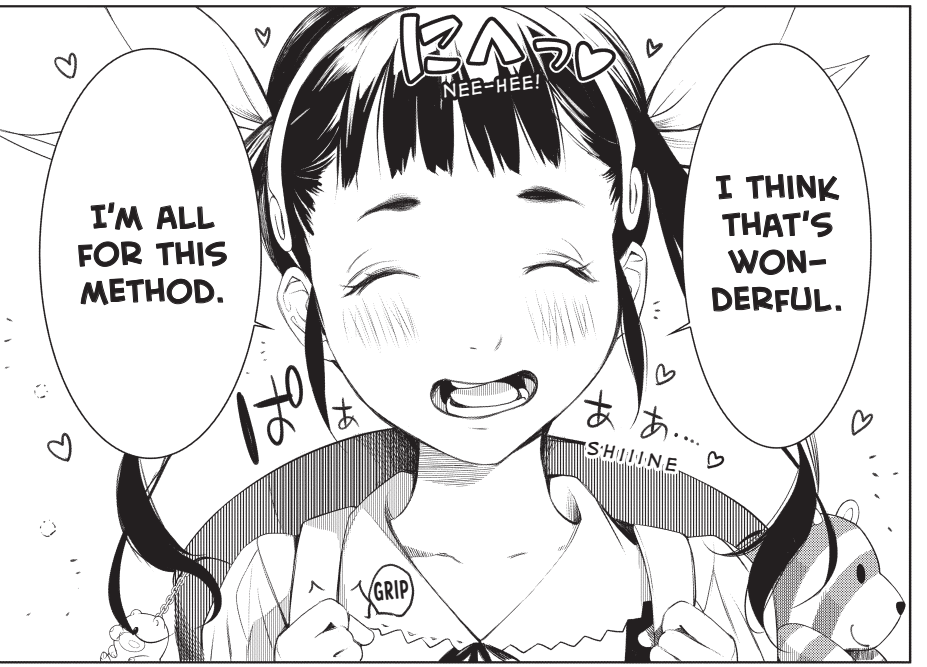

I don't think you do.
All it took for me...
I love them all so very much, but...
I love Hanekawa, but...
...was falling even more in love with somebody else— it's as simple as that.

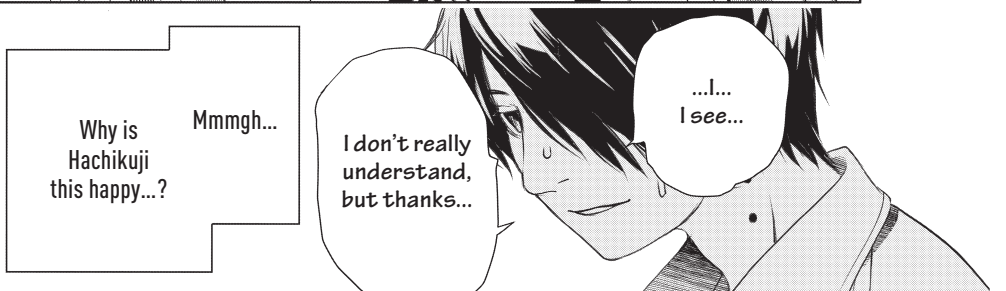

Er...
Well, you know— I did feel kind of bad.
It was like I'd gone and even made you worried about me in some kind of strange way.

It's true.
Over spring break...
...I might have experienced ...
...something like— my first love.
But that...
I see.
I understand.

Naoetsu Fine Racehorses
Araragi Memorial
1 2 3 4 5 6 7
So you're saying it's like a horsey race?
A fair and open battle! I like it!
WHAP
Hm?
...
THD
ドドドドド
And they're off here in the Araragi Fine Racehorse Memorial Cup, each of the steeds making a fine start. No, perhaps not, a few were a bit slow to start, and Featherriver is in the lead. She's got a good reputation for her solid performance, and she jumped to the start. Will this be a runaway victory? She uses her large-breasted momentum to easily clear the first corner, but no, here she comes, here she comes! It's Warfield with those legs! Here she comes with those amazing legs, folks! Warfield makes a move on the inside—a decisive move—but will Warfield take the lead? Warfield! It's Warfield coming up! She's snatched up the lead in this race with her surging attack! What power! What strength! But Featherriver closes the gap. Can she take Warfield down? Behind them, we see Howmuch, and the race is only getting started, folks— there's plenty left to go!


HUH ?!
Everyone?!
WHAT EXACTLY ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
So everyone still has a chance.
The one you love the most in the end will earn the win.
Right ?


I'M ALL FOR THIS METHOD.
NEE-HEE!
I THINK THAT'S WON-DERFUL.
はぁ
GRIP
ああ....
SHIIINE


Why is Hachikuji this happy...?
Mmmgh...
I don't really understand, but thanks...
...I... I see...

While it was unfortunate that I became a ghost...
...I was fortunate to have met you, Mister Araragi.

I love you, Mister Araragi.
Please
Home Center
ROGANEYA

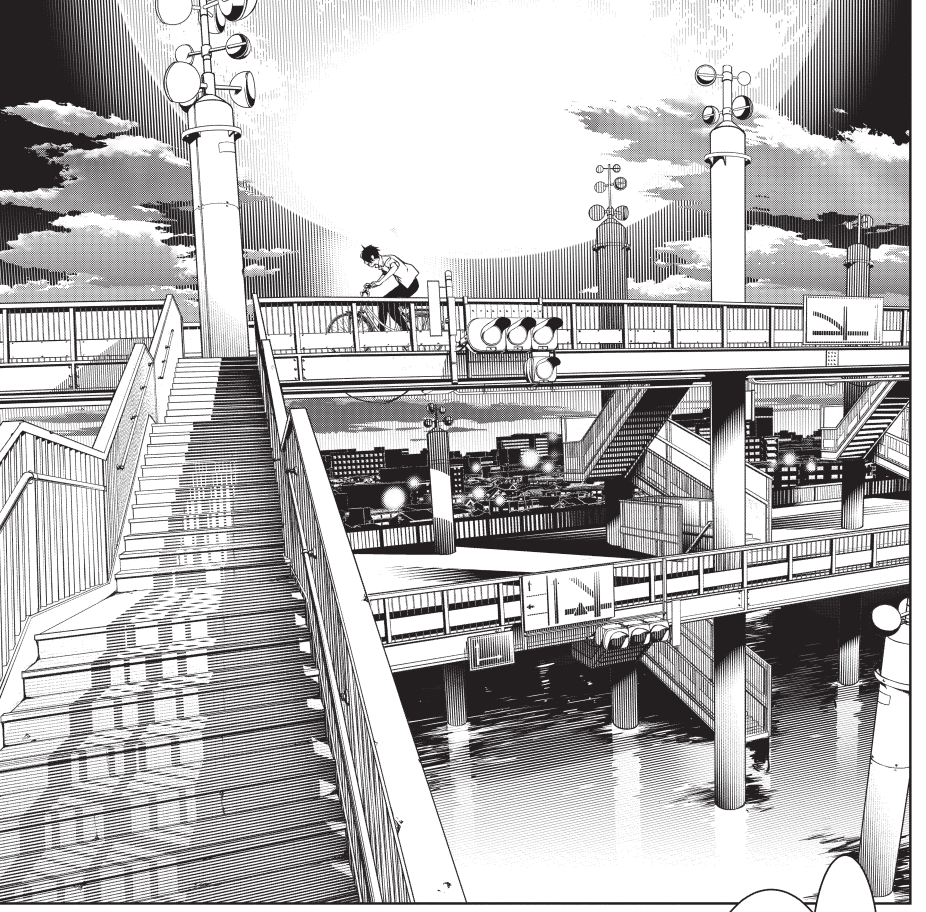
SWOOSH
SWOOSH
OH!
OKAAAY!
BE SAFE!
SWOOSH

Thanks. Me too, Hachikuji.
Anyway, let me know.

...

Mmh, mmmgh... I got drawn into running my mouth because of the conversation, but... yeah, of course this would happen...
I... I completely...
...missed my mark...
SLUUUMP
ゴール
Mister Araragi ...
...must not know.
Come on over!
I don't need to be a lost aberration anymore. I don't have a reason to be.
I ended up finding my home.
It's... about time, huh.
I guess it might be about time to move on to the other side...

That's what I was thinking.
But now...
...if this is how it is,
I still can't move on, can I?
PWING
Yeah.
JUST A LITTLE LONGER.
I'LL DO MY BEST WHILE I CAN STILL BE HERE.
OKAY, TIME TO GET SEARCH-ING!
THP
THP
THP
THP



...
I was able to come across Hachikuji.
So I should be able to come across Shinobu, too—or so I'd like to believe, but...
...I'm unlikely to if I just run around town with reckless abandon like this.
I need info... I just need some sort of information!
Input pattern

Huh?
Big Brother Koyomi ?!
Yeah ...
Sorry to call you right after getting your number.
NO, NOT AT ALL! I'M SO HAPPY! THANK YOU!
I DON'T HAVE ANY-THING TO DO RIGHT NOW!
FLOP FLOP
ばたばた

Where should I start...
Well.
Umm...
So she can be energetic like this as long as she's on the phone, where you don't have to be face-to-face with someone...?
Hm ...?
What's the matter, Big Brother?! What happened?!
You almost sound out of breath!
Ca—
Calm down, Big Brother!
It's important to stay calm at times like this, you know!
...
Sengoku really just told me that...
Uhh... Let's see.
Oh, I know!

...
I'll tell you a really funny story, then.
Ummm, so in manga and anime...
...I can't believe she said that.
How much confidence does it take to tell someone that the story you're about to tell is "really funny"?
...while maids might be shown as living fun and carefree lives, being a maid in real life is a surprisingly difficult job, you see.

It's not all about being cute and saying "moé moé!" From what I understand, they barely have any time to themselves.
I'm sure of it, because that's what a maid told me...
...at a mixer the other day...

So, umm ...
Is it supposed to be funny because the maid says she barely has any time to herself while she's meeting guys at a fun and carefree mixer...?
That's right.
Isn't it funny?
...
It would have been a pretty trying experience for anyone without my powers to remotely view a scene based only on the sound given off by the rustling of cloth...
Note: Not a vampire power.
Shi-nobu ...?
Oh!
She disap-peared? The blond girl, right?
Anything will help at this point.
Have you— noticed some-thing?
Hmmm...

I can use binoculars to look for her.
I live on the 18th floor, you know!
Oh, that's right!
No! Let me help out!
Are you sure? Sorry...
What is it ?!
Did you find her?!
Oh.

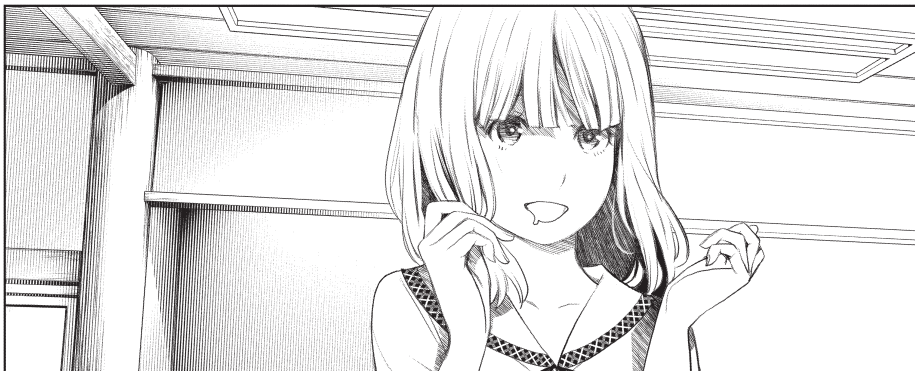
...Strange?
...someone said something strange to me.
...I-I'm sorry. That's not it... Um, there's something I kind of remembered.
It might not have anything to do with this, but...
Yes.
A man named Mister Deishu Kaiki—
S222

BAKEMONOGATARI
Do you want some, Sengoku?

THANK YOU, MISTER KAIKI!
Y... YES!
OH!

Huh ...?

Fine with me. Then pay up.

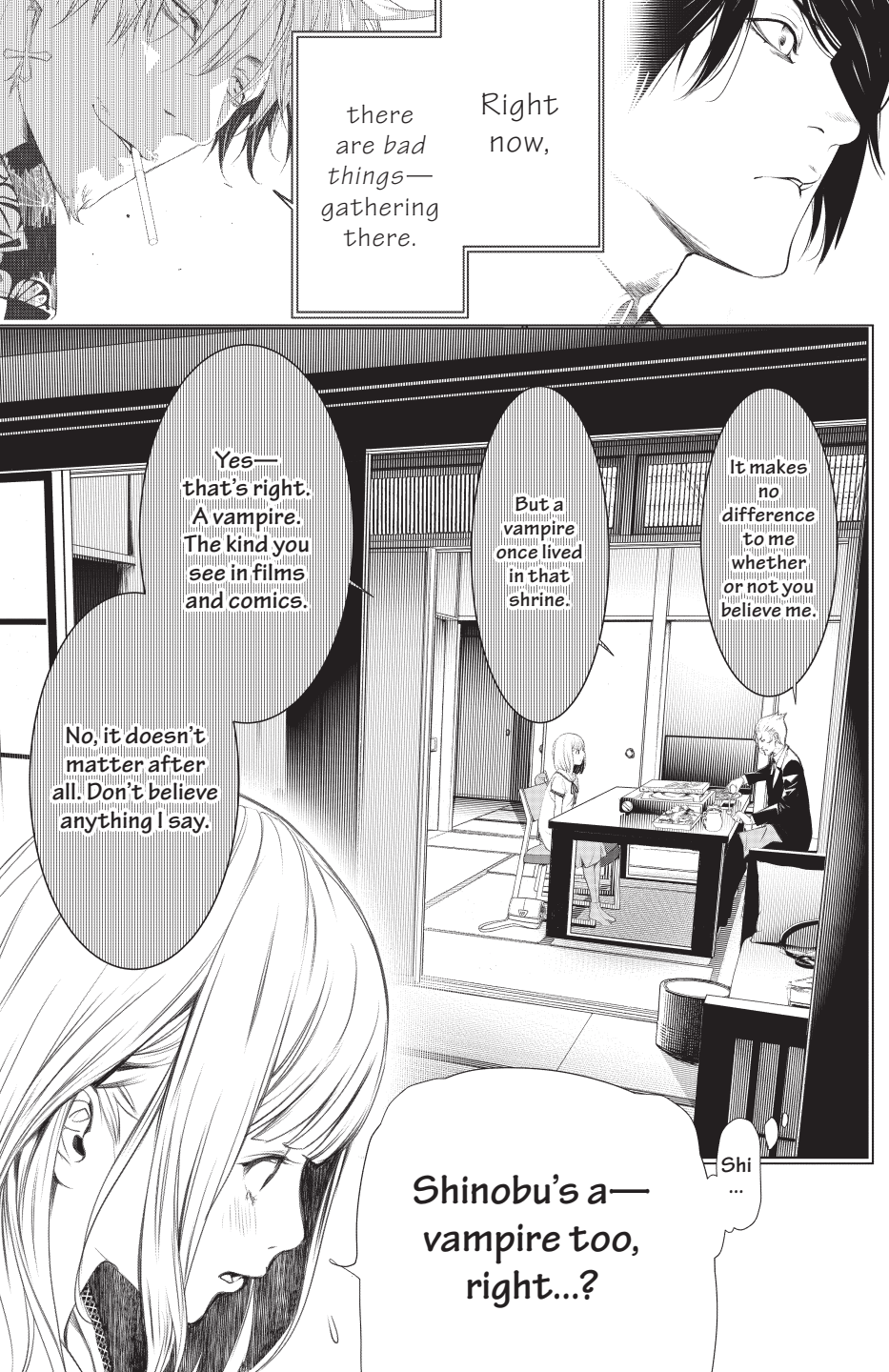


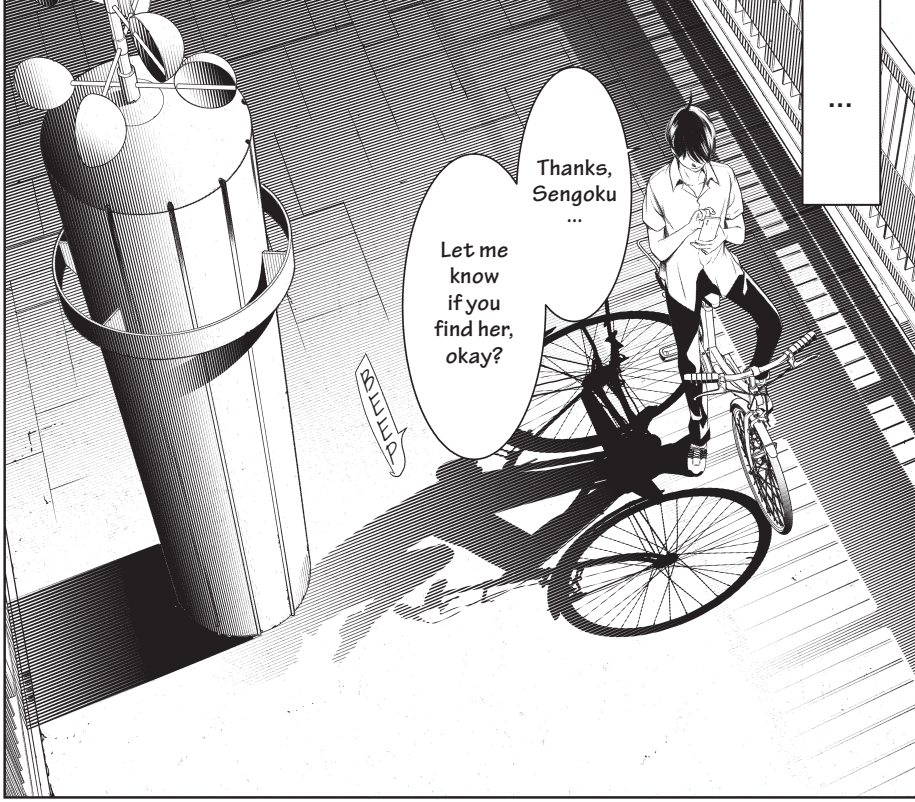
I love money.
Sen-goku.
Because money can stand in for any-thing.
It can be a substitute for anything under the sun— it's a trump card.
You can buy things, you can buy life, you can buy people, you can buy hearts and minds,
you can buy happiness, and you can buy dreams—
It's very precious— but not only that.
It's not irreplaceable.
That's why I love it.

...
I...don't think I'd like this guy very much...
Oh... so is this the jerk... er, the person...
...who agreed to talk to you about the bruises on your body?
Bruises— from being constricted by a snake.
To briefly summarize Sengoku's complete tangent—
this man was apparently an expert on aberrations, the same as Oshino.
He'd quietly become a celebrity at Sengoku's middle school and apparently gives all kinds of advice.
For a fee.
You know, Big Brother, I gave Mister Kaiki almost all the money I got as a New Year's gift.
But he said it had nothing to do with our main topic.
He ended up not letting Nadeko have a single bite of meat...
O-Oh... Is that so. I'd be happy to hear all about it later...
So anyway, he said something strange, right? Well— what was it?

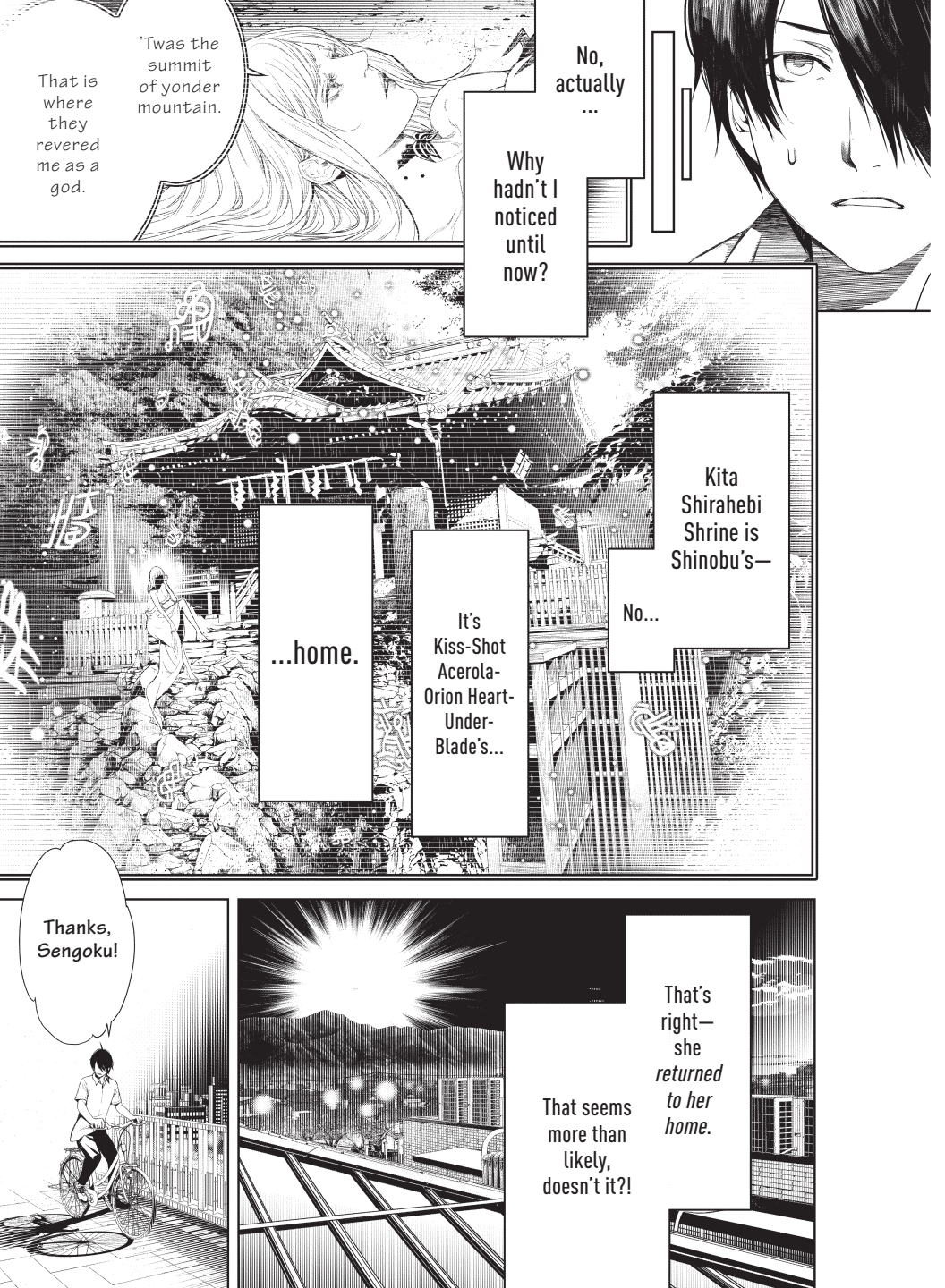
Sen-goku.
The "curse" placed upon you is quite an irregular one.
You don't have any time to spare right now, and I was basically complaining to you. I'm sorry, how inconsiderate.
Oh... I... I'm sorry, Big Brother.
No...it's fine... just, what's this all about?
There are so many unique conditions that would normally never be met—and so, by chance...
...has been opened.
...a hole...
There, you can find a shrine that has fallen out of use.
There is a mountain on the outskirts of this town.
...
"A hole."

That is the center ...
...of this town's aberra-tions.


Right now,
there are bad things—gathering there.
Yes—that's right. A vampire. The kind you see in films and comics.
But a vampire once lived in that shrine.
It makes no difference to me whether or not you believe me.
No, it doesn't matter after all. Don't believe anything I say.
Shi...
Shinobu's a—vampire too, right...?

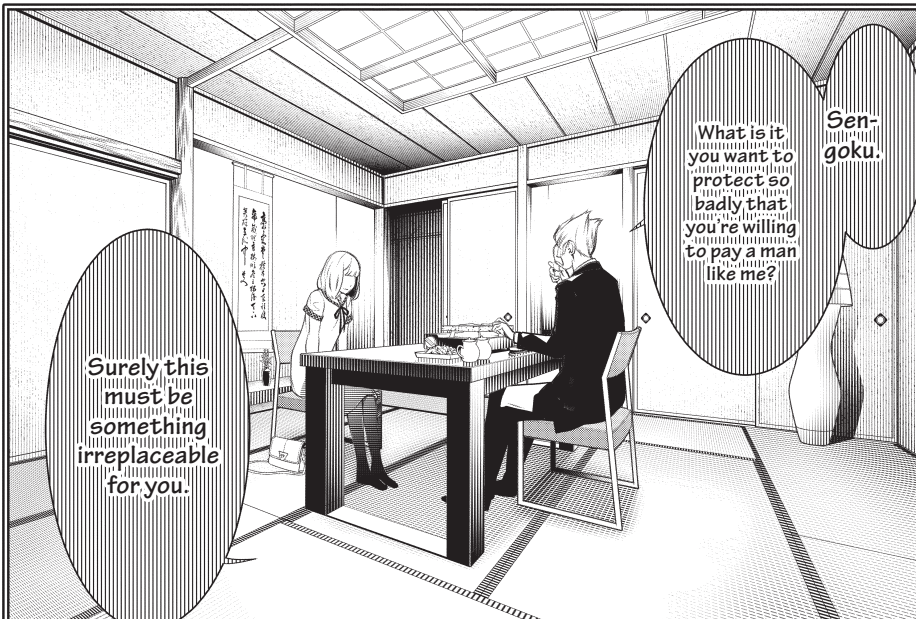

...
Thanks, Sengoku ...
Let me know if you find her, okay?
CLANG

What Sengoku told me—
wasn't new to me in any way.
But—what is this feeling?
This topic coming up—the timing of it...
For whatever reason... it makes me *stop and think.*
There's something... unsettling about it.


That is where they revered me as a god.
'Twas the summit of yonder mountain.
No, actually...
Why hadn't I noticed until now?
Kita Shirahebi Shrine is Shinobu's—
No...
It's Kiss-Shot Acerola-Orion Heart-Under-Blade's...
...home.
Thanks, Sengoku!
That's right—she *returned to her home.*
That seems more than likely, doesn't it?!

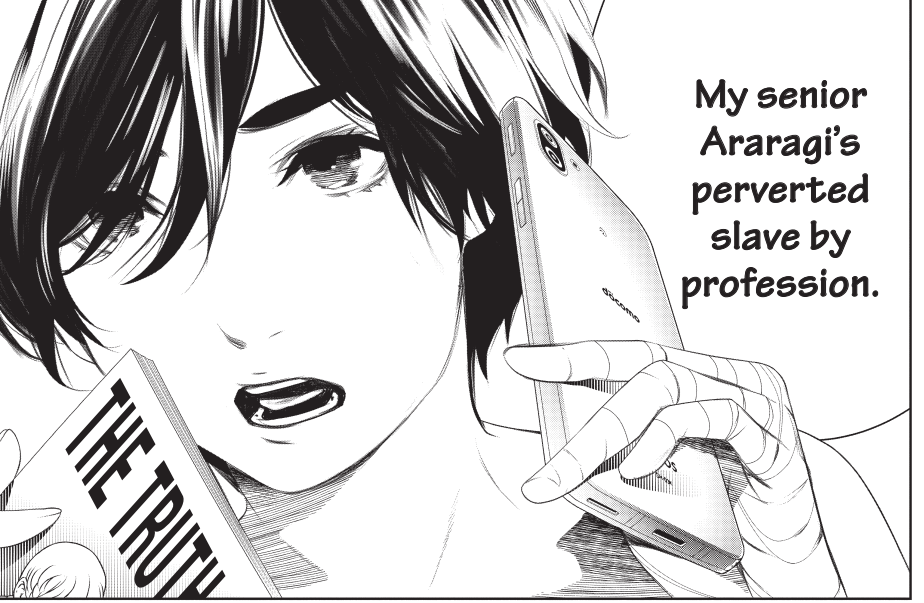
TWITCH
Ah!

Isn't that Big Brother Koyomi?
Heh heh heh... Found—ya?
Hm? No? Hmm...

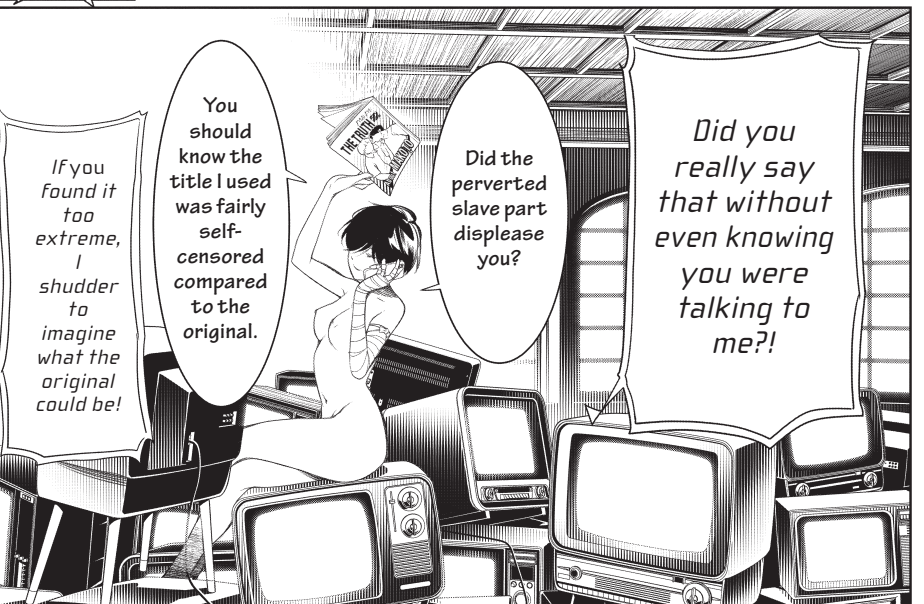

Sen-goku.
What is it you want to protect so badly that you're willing to pay a man like me?
Surely this must be something irreplaceable for you.

Your friendship with the classmate who cursed you?
Your peaceful life?
Your body?
Hmph.
...Um...
Huh...? Well...
Ah...
I wasn't able to give an answer then.
But now— I can say it.
Right now...
...Big Brother Koyomi... is all I can see.
What's "irreplaceable" to me.

Suruga Kanbaru
080-XXX-XXXX
Now connecting
Speaker
Mute
End Call
What I need—is insurance.
but it's really going to hurt if I come out of this empty-handed.
There's a pretty high chance Shinobu's on that mountain now—
THE TRUTH
Suruga Kanbaru here.


My senior Araragi's perverted slave by profession.
THE TRUTH

Hm.
That voice... it must be you, my senior Araragi.
WE'RE NOT LIVING IN A WORLD WHERE I CAN JUST LET A JOKE LIKE THAT SLIDE ANYMORE!
I'M ABSOLUTELY GOING TO CALL YOU A RECKLESS LIAR OVER THAT!


Did you really say that without even knowing you were talking to me?!
Did the perverted slave part displease you?
You should know the title I used was fairly self-censored compared to the original.
If you found it too extreme, I shudder to imagine what the original could be!

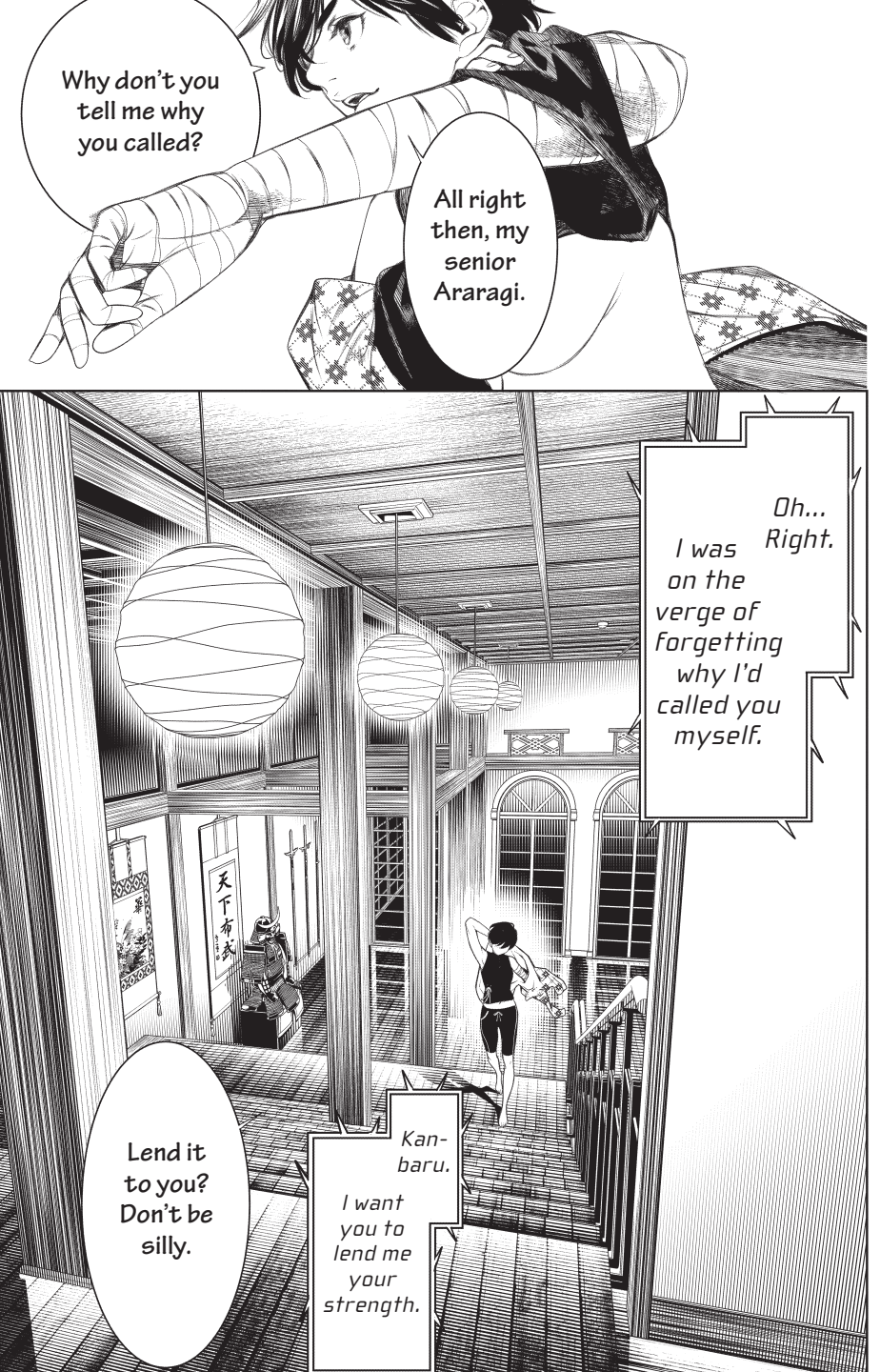
...Yeah, it wasn't my day to help with prep for the cultural festival.
Hm? No, I've already left school.
THE TRUTH
About MAKOTO
So what're you up to right now? Are you at home?
I see... I'm jealous. Your class sounds pretty organized.
...
Is something the matter? It's not like you to guess wrong twice in a row.
No, not that either.

Right now, I'm amusing myself by playing *Fashionable Witches: Love and Berry* in the neighborhood supermarket's game room.
How was I supposed to predict that?!
What are you talking about?
Great games can be enjoyed by people of any age.
THP
THP
And wait...
Is that actually fun for high schoolers to play?

I've already spent nearly 3,000 yen today alone.
There's a small line of kids behind me, but I have no intention of giving up my seat.
You're acting like you can do whatever terrible thing you want just because you have some money!
What are you doing?! Stop now and let those kids play!

Hmph.
I can't believe you, my senior, of all people, are saying the same thing as the clerk who just kicked me out of the store.
You got kicked out?!
If someone really gets angry at you, the only thing to do is get just as angry back at them.
No! You really need to apologize!

I absolutely wasn't doing anything indecent just now.
I'm working hard to always keep my body and heart open and honest.
I should let you know for the sake of my honor.
What was that?
...
Nothing, just talking to myself.
But you know, even though I go for most any boys' love genre, there are a few I still can't handle...
I can't stay open and honest when it comes to some of those novels.
Again, what are you even talking about?!


Why don't you tell me why you called?
All right then, my senior Araragi.
Oh... Right.
I was on the verge of forgetting why I'd called you myself.
Kanbaru.
I want you to lend me your strength.
Lend it to you? Don't be silly.

All you have to do is tell me how to use it.
My strength has always belonged to you. It's been that way right from the start.
That was so cool... I might fall for her...
...

BAKEMONOGATARI

HAAAAH
Of course! I fully compre-hend you now!
So you're saying...
...I need to strip!!!
If you're that desperate to, we can both take off all the clothes we want next time!
WATCH FOR FALLING METEORS
Okay?! Haha! You're going to be blown away if you ever see me strip!
So please, Kanbaru, hold off on that for now and just find Shinobu like a normal person would find someone!

I need you to lend me those faster-than-a bike legs of yours!
While I'm there, I'd like you to search the town!
I'm headed towards the mountains right now.
Lend them to you? Don't be silly.
...my thighs, my shins, and my groin have all belonged to you from the start.
My calves, my knee pits...

Hm? What's that? The soles of my feet and the webbing between my fingers?
Now there's the man I've come to know...
So kinky that you fear no gods...
I never said that!

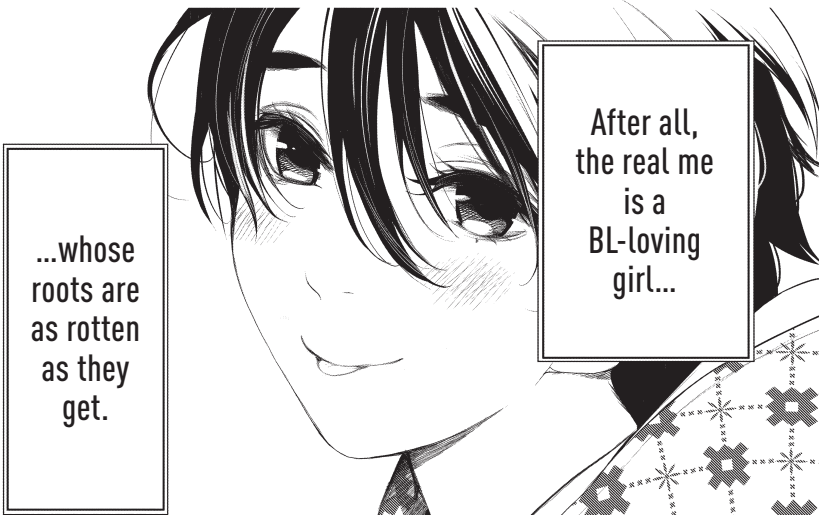
Oh...right. She gave me your volleyball shorts and school swimsuit to hold onto.
Sengoku is helping out, too, so fill each other in. I just sent you her number.
I see.
They're not washed, are they?
Uh. I think they are.

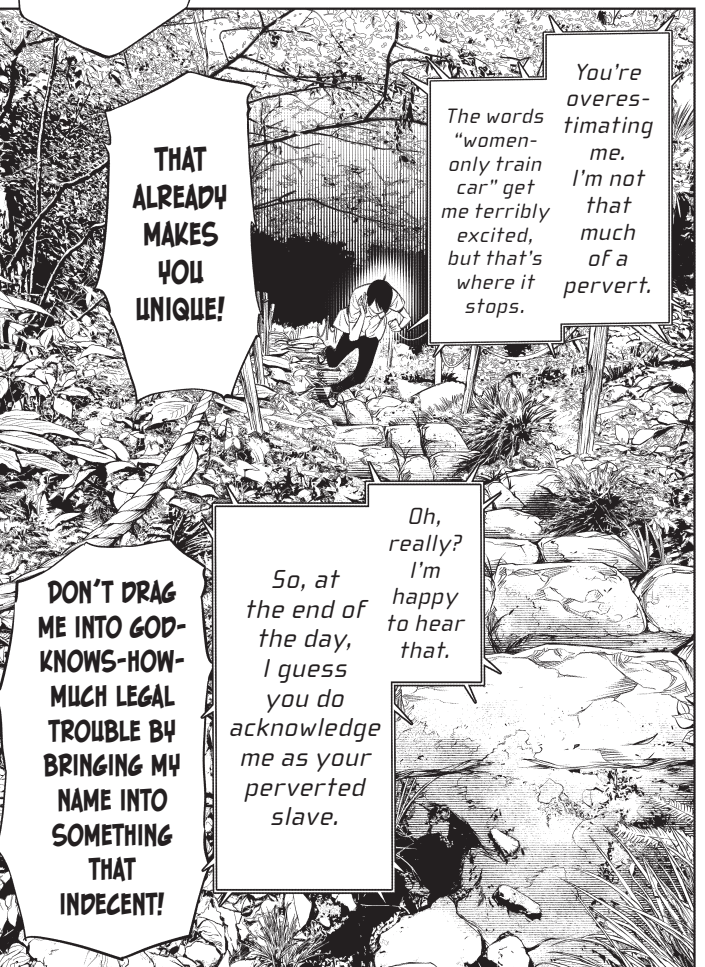
Kanbaru... it seems like we're going to have to sit down and have a nice, long talk about how exactly you view me.
SCREEK
Blows may also be exchanged.
So it's true, even the pervi-est can fall!
It's so unlike you to allow such a travesty to occur!
What a fool... Getting them back from her is mean-ingless now!
Ex-cuse me ?!
VSSSH!H
We'll go all-out on each other in the nude— what an erotic turn of phrase!
Sounds good!
ZAKK

BOOM

It's odd, but for whatever reason— my senior Araragi and I...
...sync up perfectly.
It's like we've been best friends forever.

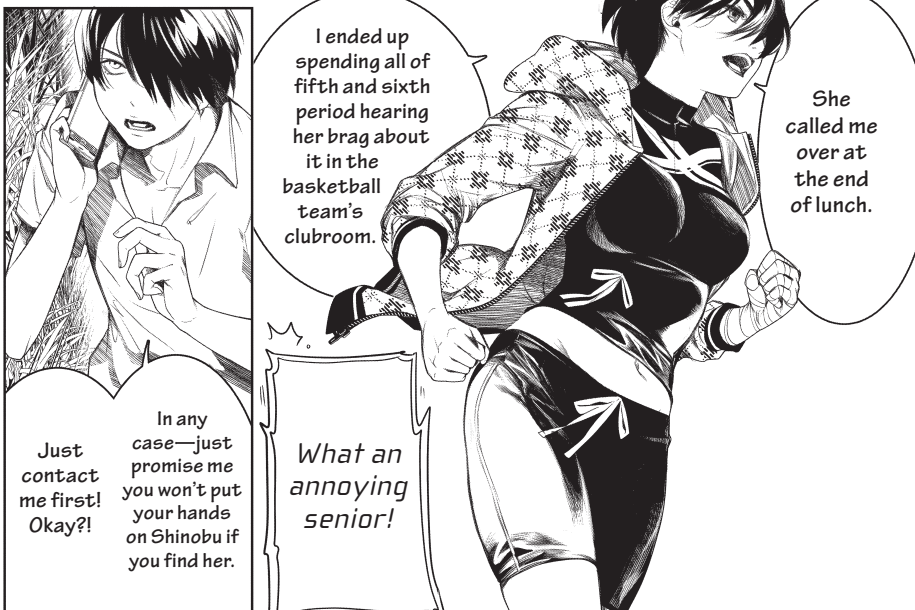
Everyone treats me like the most outgoing student at Naoetsu High...
...but in its own way— that can get pretty stifling and tiring at times.


After all, the real me is a BL-loving girl...
...whose roots are as rotten as they get.



Haha. You're the only one I say these kinds of things to.

Speaking of indecent acts.
I heard, you know.
It seems that you're going to engage in some indecent acts with my senior Senjogahara after all this today?
WHAT ABOUT A DATE IS INDECENT ?!
AND WAIT, WHY DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT?!

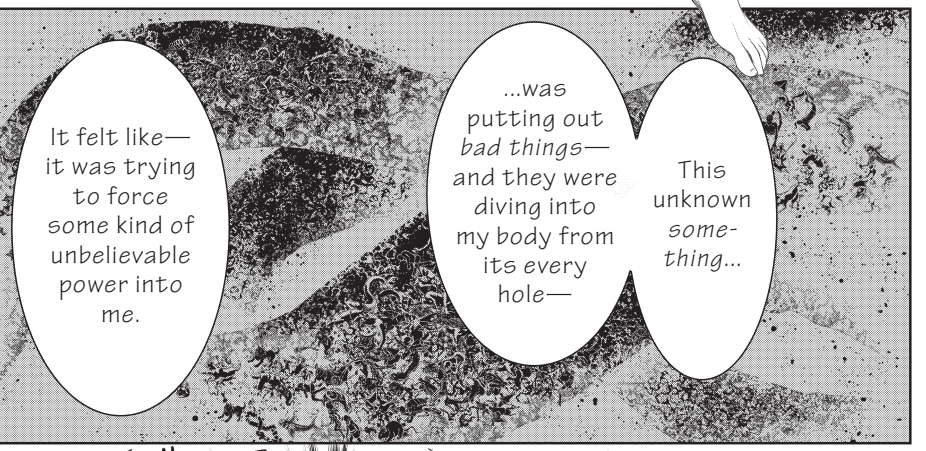

She called me over at the end of lunch.
I ended up spending all of fifth and sixth period hearing her brag about it in the basketball team's clubroom.
What an annoying senior!
In any case—just promise me you won't put your hands on Shinobu if you find her.
Just contact me first! Okay?!

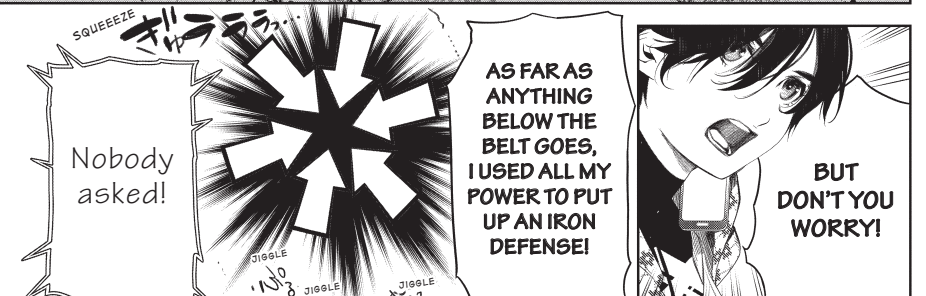
I guess the fact that she would brag about it shows that Senjogahara's looking forward to today's date just as much as I am.
So that's why she wasn't in her afternoon classes...
I am happy to hear that.
Bragging, huh...
Still...it sounds like—she was bragging.
Okay.
I act only according to your command, my senior.
Beep.
—Okay.
...
KRINK
GRRKT

BWOOM

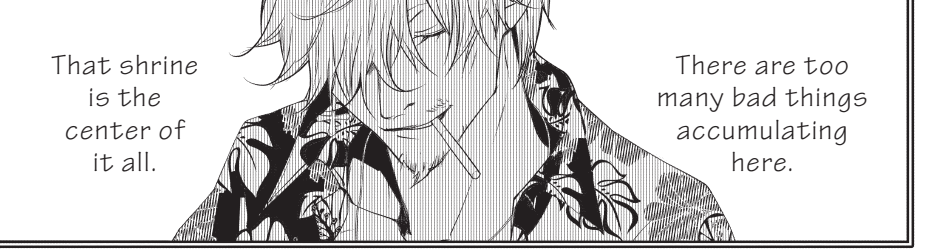
Yep—just as I expected.
When I'm on this mountain—I can transform...!
Hm? ...Oh.
That?
You mean the other day—when I started feeling sick on the mountain?
This feeling—I know what it is.
It's just like what Kanbaru told me...
No...
I wouldn't call it feeling sick—
...
I guess I feel...a little tired...
If anything, it might've been the opposite of that.
GRRSH

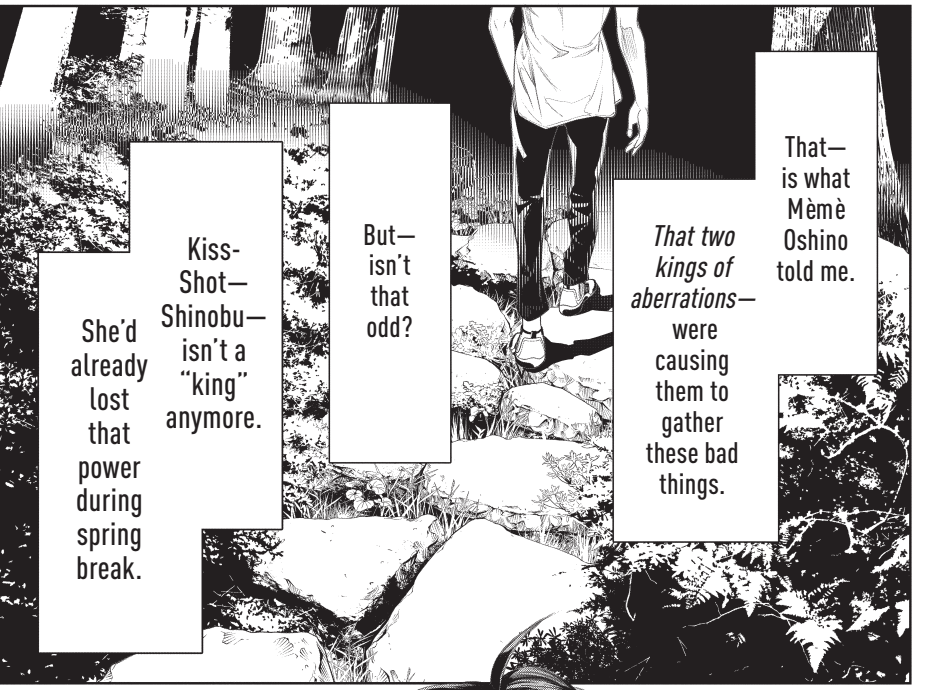
Are you telling me you've experienced something like that?! In this world?! You didn't even have to be reborn in another one for that?!
...the only way I could describe it is like a tentacle-play scene.
—Yes, if I were to compare it to a past experience of mine...
It felt like a countless number of some creature was clinging to me.


It felt like—it was trying to force some kind of unbelievable power into me.
...was putting out *bad things*—and they were diving into my body from its every hole—
This unknown *some-thing*...


SQUEEEZE ギュラララ...
Nobody asked!
JIGGLE
JIGGLE
JIGGLE
AS FAR AS ANYTHING BELOW THE BELT GOES, I USED ALL MY POWER TO PUT UP AN IRON DEFENSE!
BUT DON'T YOU WORRY!

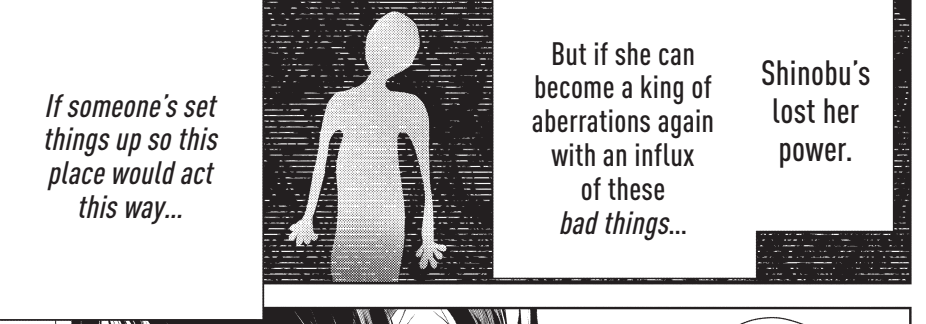
THWAK
SPLAT
ROLL
ROLL
ROLL
ROLL
BA-KRAK
BA-KRAK
BA-KRAK
CRONK
Ow... that—
doesn't hurt.
My healing abilities... are enhanced, too.

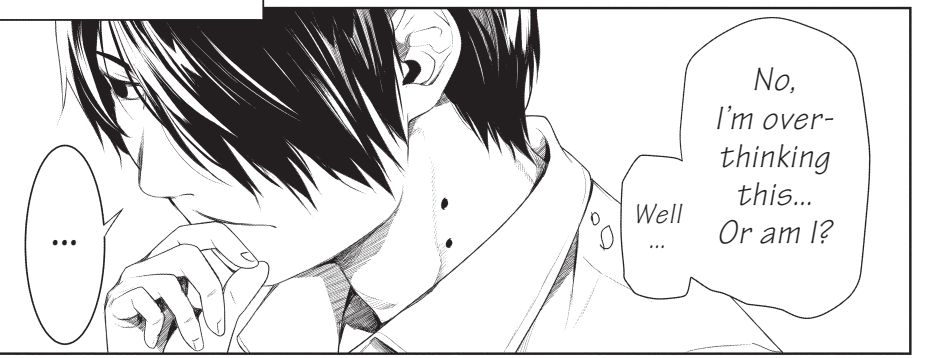

That shrine is the center of it all.
There are too many bad things accumulating here.

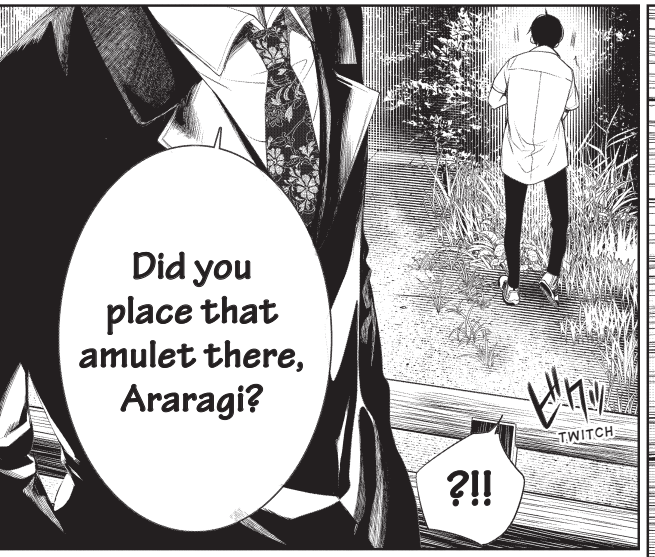

That— is what Mèmè Oshino told me.
That two kings of aberrations— were causing them to gather these bad things.
But— isn't that odd?
Kiss-Shot— Shinobu— isn't a "king" anymore.
She'd already lost that power during spring break.

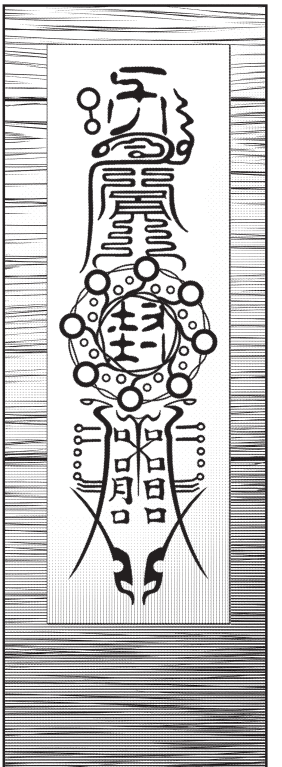
This is just a thought...
But if—
if this *doesn't* involve Shinobu ...

...is someone else opening up this hole...
...for Shinobu's sake...?


If someone's set things up so this place would act this way...
But if she can become a king of aberrations again with an influx of these *bad things...*
Shinobu's lost her power.

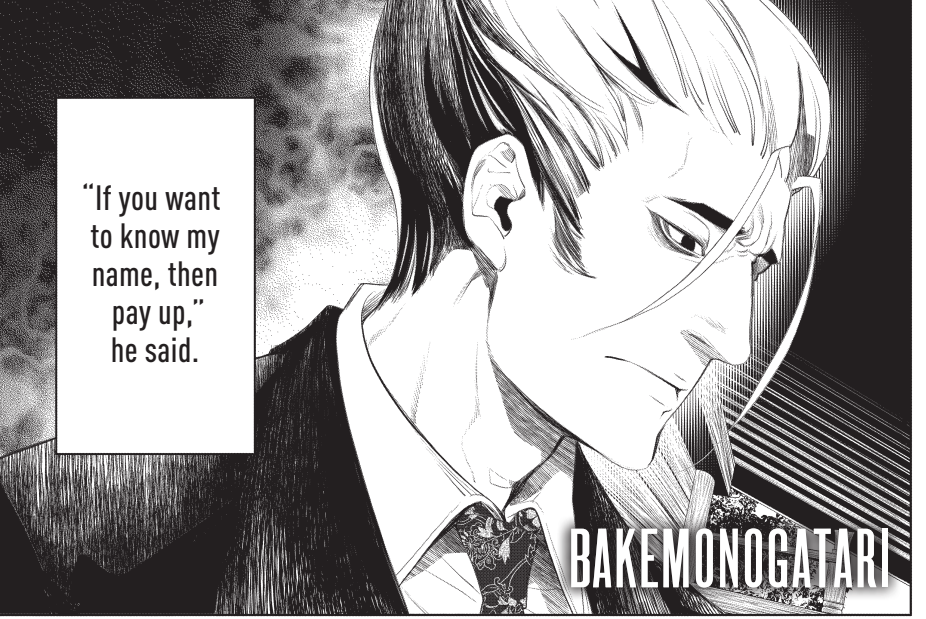

...
Well ...
No, I'm over-thinking this... Or am I?


Did you place that amulet there, Araragi?
TWITCH
?!!



...?!

Who the hell are you?
But why do you know my name?
That's right— I did.
You want to know? Fine, then.
Pay up.


"If you want to know my name, then pay up," he said.
BAKEMONOGATARI

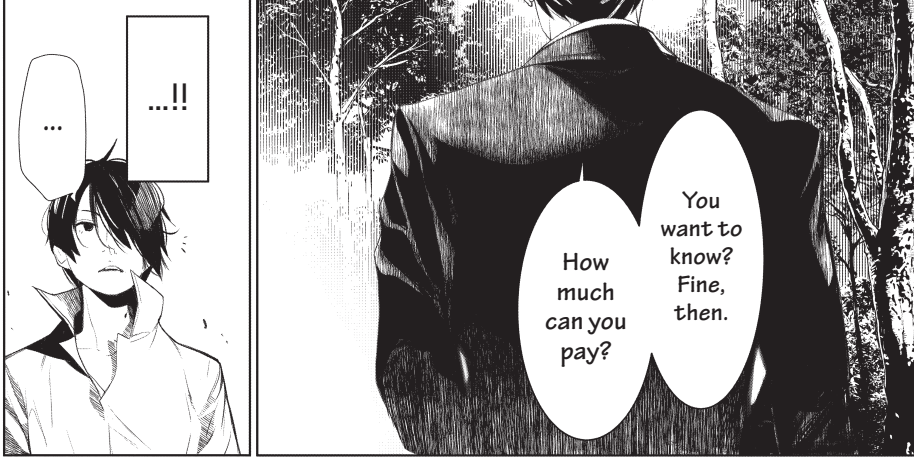
I wanted to say... his name is...
Ka... Kai-ki...

I find it hard to believe there would be more than one man in all humanity ...
...who would make that preposterous a demand.
This is the guy Sengoku was talking about...
Oh... Now I get it.

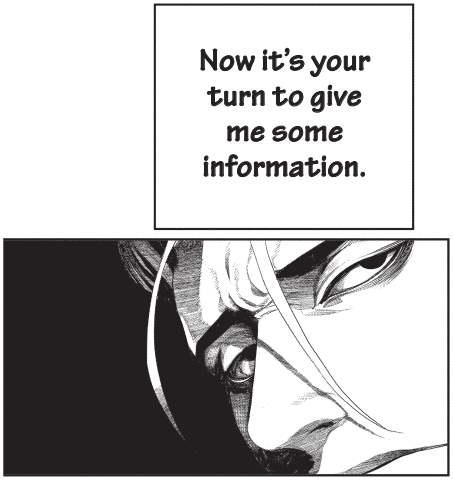
Umm ...

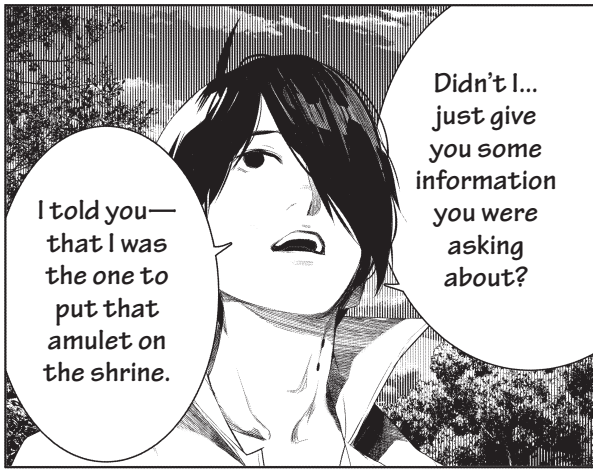
Deishu
Kaiki.

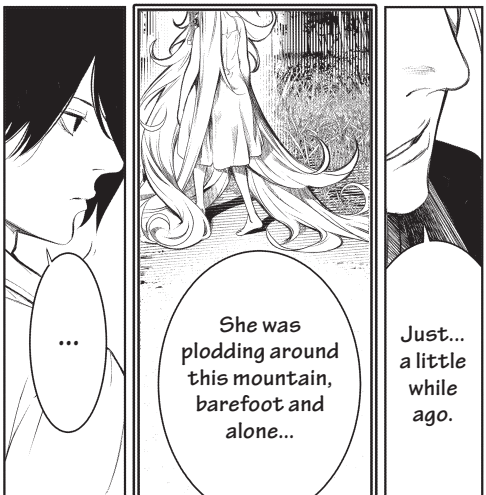
Oh!
Hmph.
Uh... Um...
I'm looking for a little girl. Have you seen her?
She has blond hair, and she's wearing a one-piece dress...with goggles and a helmet...
Yes, I've seen her.
He's kinda rude and all-around creepy...
I get a weird feeling from this guy...
Why ask this guy, though? It's not like he'll know...
Huh?!!
R-REALLY?! WHERE WAS SHE?! DID YOU SEE HER ON THIS MOUNTAIN?!
PLEASE... TELL ME MORE!

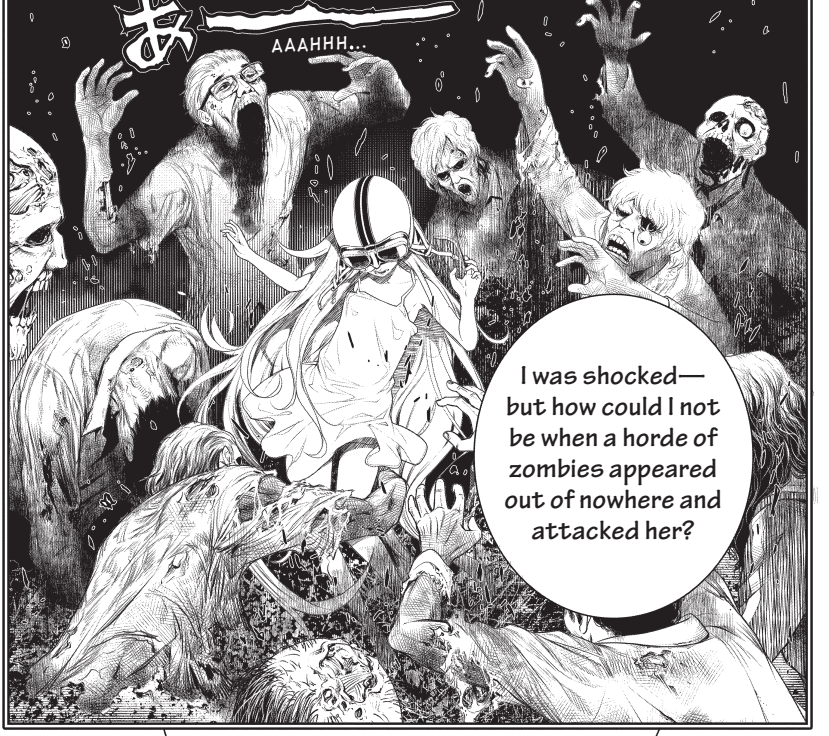


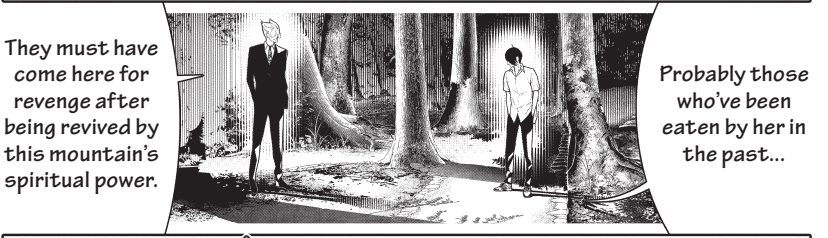
Now it's your turn to give me some information.



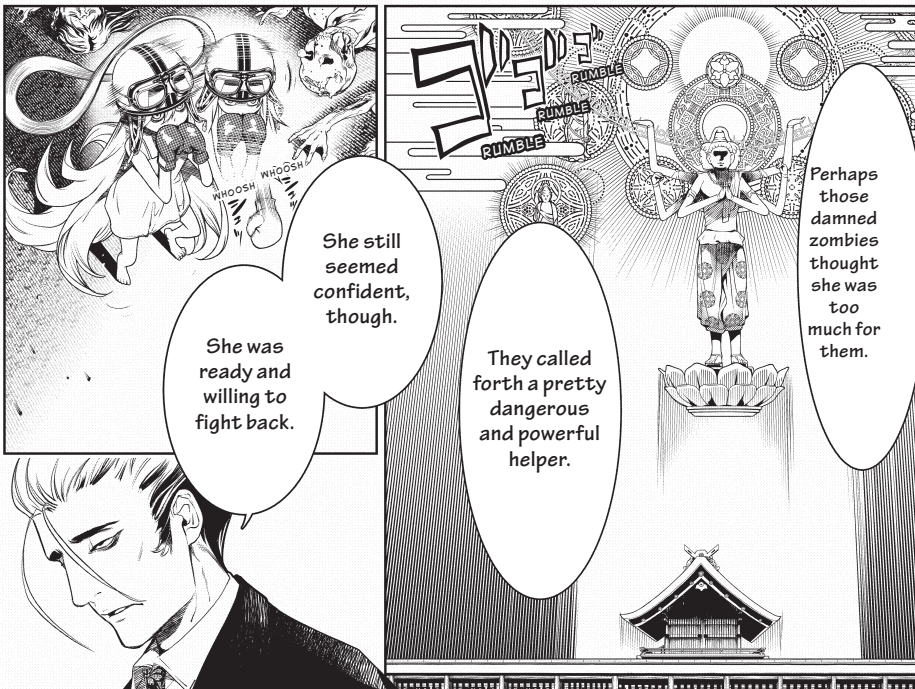


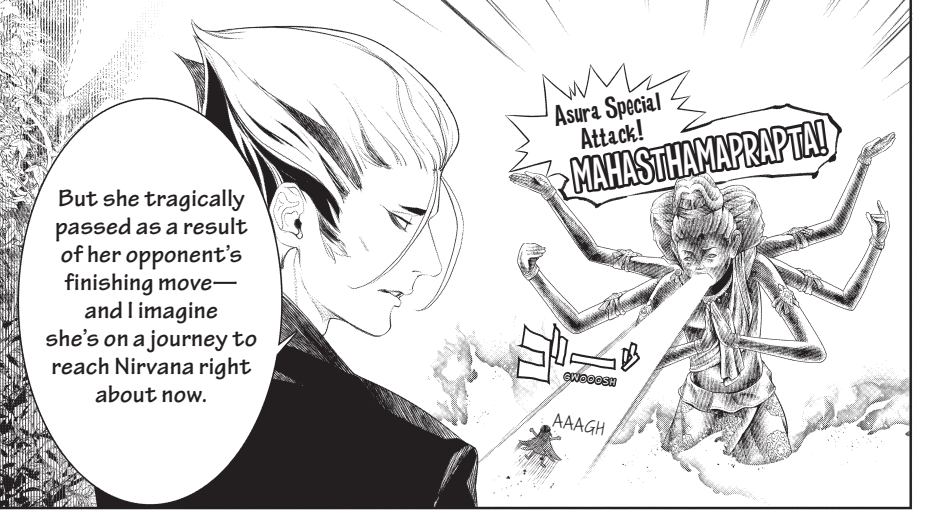


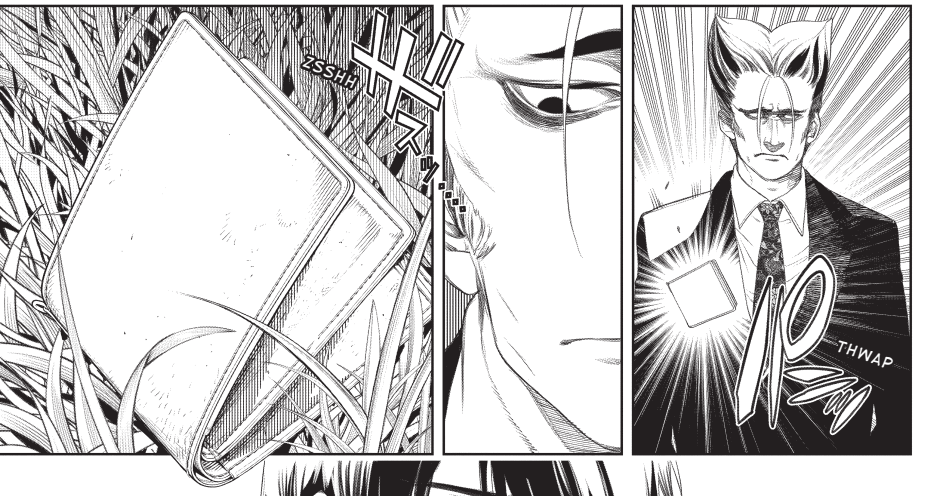

AAAHHH...
I was shocked— but how could I not be when a horde of zombies appeared out of nowhere and attacked her?


They must have come here for revenge after being revived by this mountain's spiritual power.
Probably those who've been eaten by her in the past...

SHIIIINE
FLASH
The battle lasted for hours, but just as the young girl was about to be victorious—


RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
Perhaps those damned zombies thought she was too much for them.
They called forth a pretty dangerous and powerful helper.
WHOOSH
WHOOSH
She still seemed confident, though.
She was ready and willing to fight back.

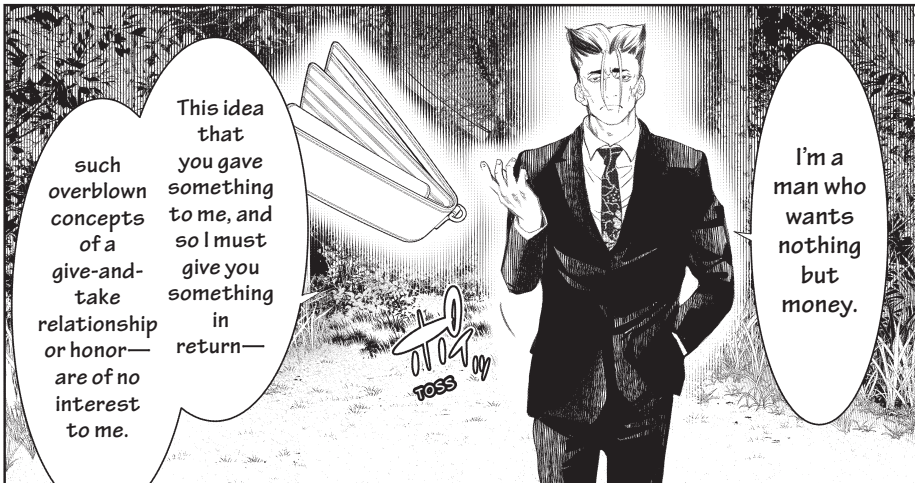

But she tragically passed as a result of her opponent's finishing move—and I imagine she's on a journey to reach Nirvana right about now.
Asura Special Attack!
MAHASTHAMAPRAPTA!
ゴーッ
WOOOSH
AAAGH


ズバッ
ZSSHH
THWAP

I'll give you as much as you want. Just tell me the truth!
I don't have time for this.

5000
13,000 yen, huh... Well, fine. I'll leave you a little for the train fare home.
I like your attitude.
...Hm? Oh, you have a train pass. In that case, I'll be taking your change and your coupons, too.

Ara-ragi.
The lesson you need to learn here...
...is that there's nothing more worthless than that which you believe to have given in charity.


I'm a man who wants nothing but money.
TOSS
This idea that you gave something to me, and so I must give you something in return—
such overblown concepts of a give-and-take relationship or honor— are of no interest to me.

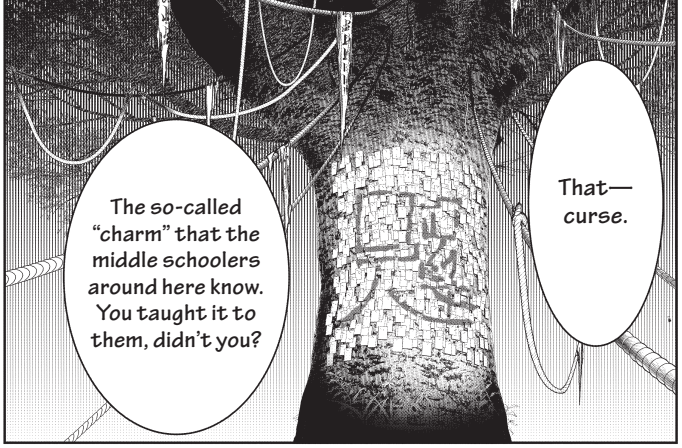
Oh, that's right.
Araragi... you know a woman named Hanekawa, right?
ZAKK
ZAKK
ZAKK
ZAKK
?!
Right here— in the past.
I've seen that woman.

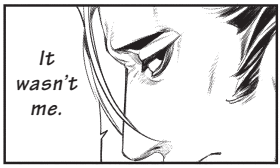
What an accursed woman.
All kinds of bad things have gathered to her, trying to use her.

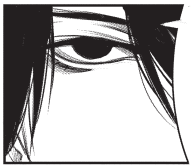
That's not what I asked.
I want to know where this blond girl is.
You just said she was walking around—barefoot.
Since it's clear you saw her, all I want to know is when and where.

Hanekawa knows where she is.
ニヤっ
SMIRK

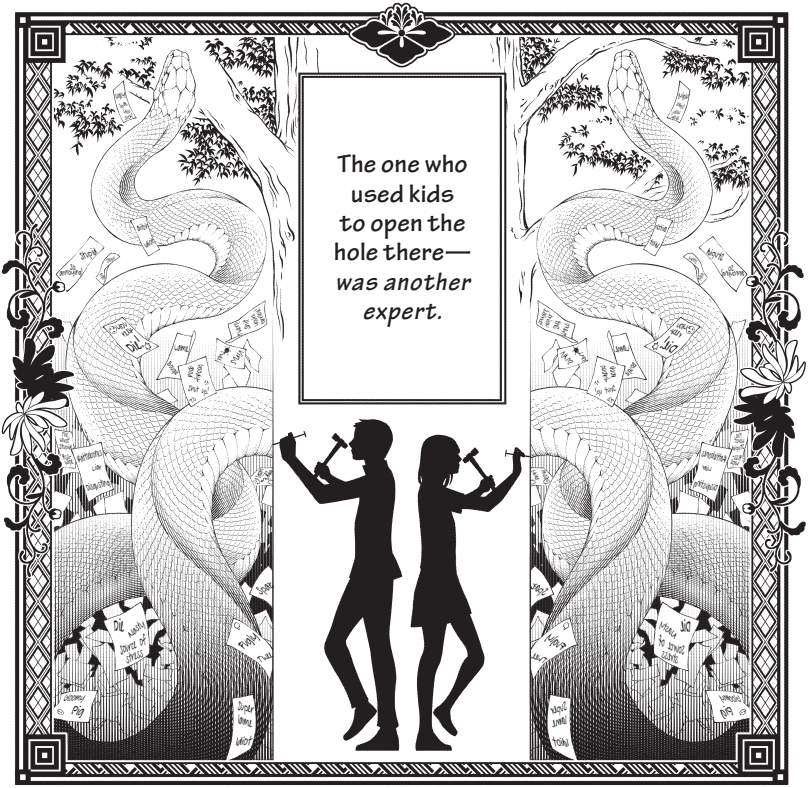
Like a crow.
...Kaiki laughed.
...
SHUDDER



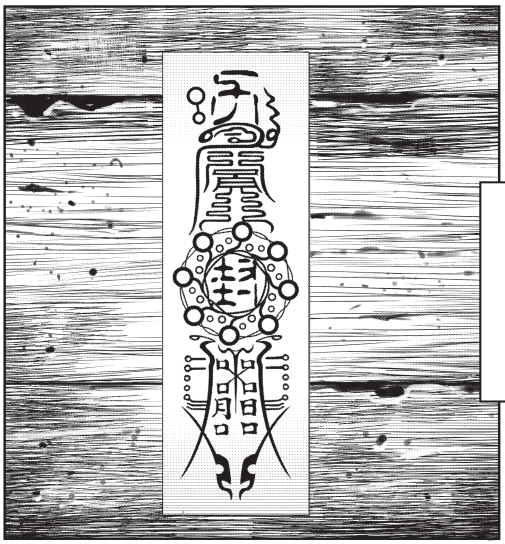




What are you plotting— teaching something that dangerous to kids?



I only came here because I heard a ridiculous story about a vampire who could be called the king of aberrations appearing in this town.
It's easy to do business in the occult in such places, you see.
I was let down, of course...
There are no kings here.
SMIRK
All I found— were three former kings and one future king.
Ara-ragi... You should go back to town.
You can spend all the time you want on this mountain, but it would all be wasted...



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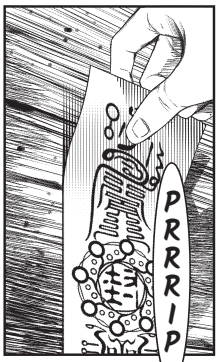
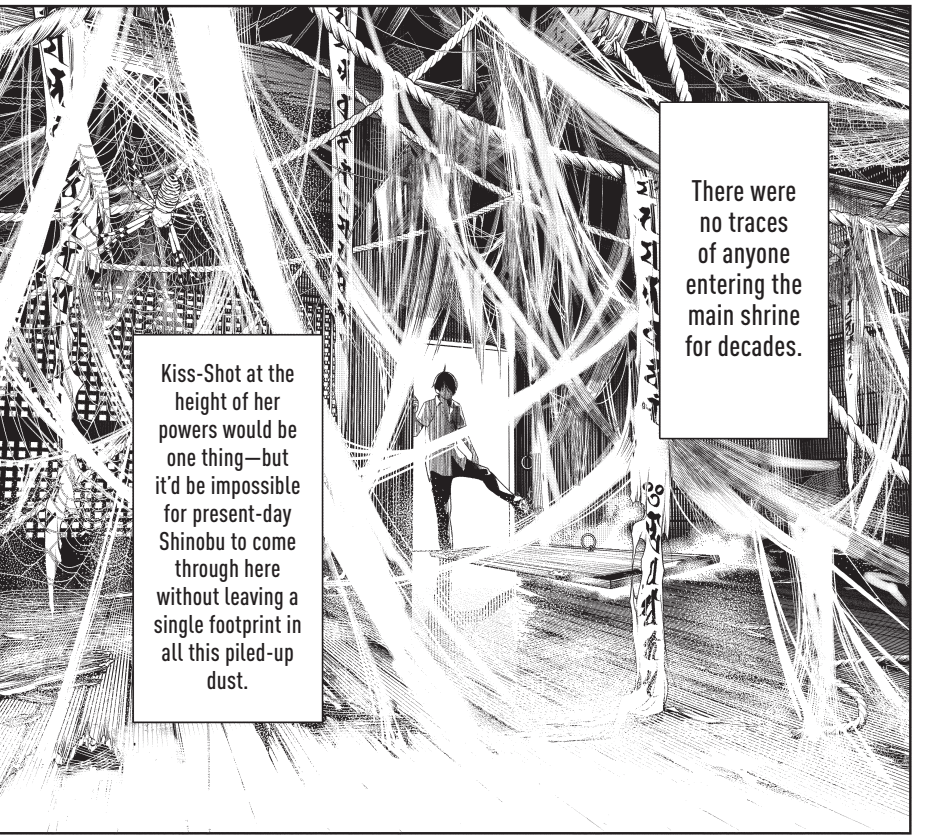
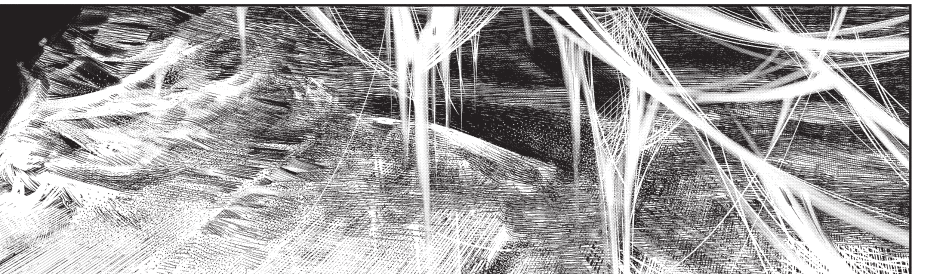

PRRRIP

…

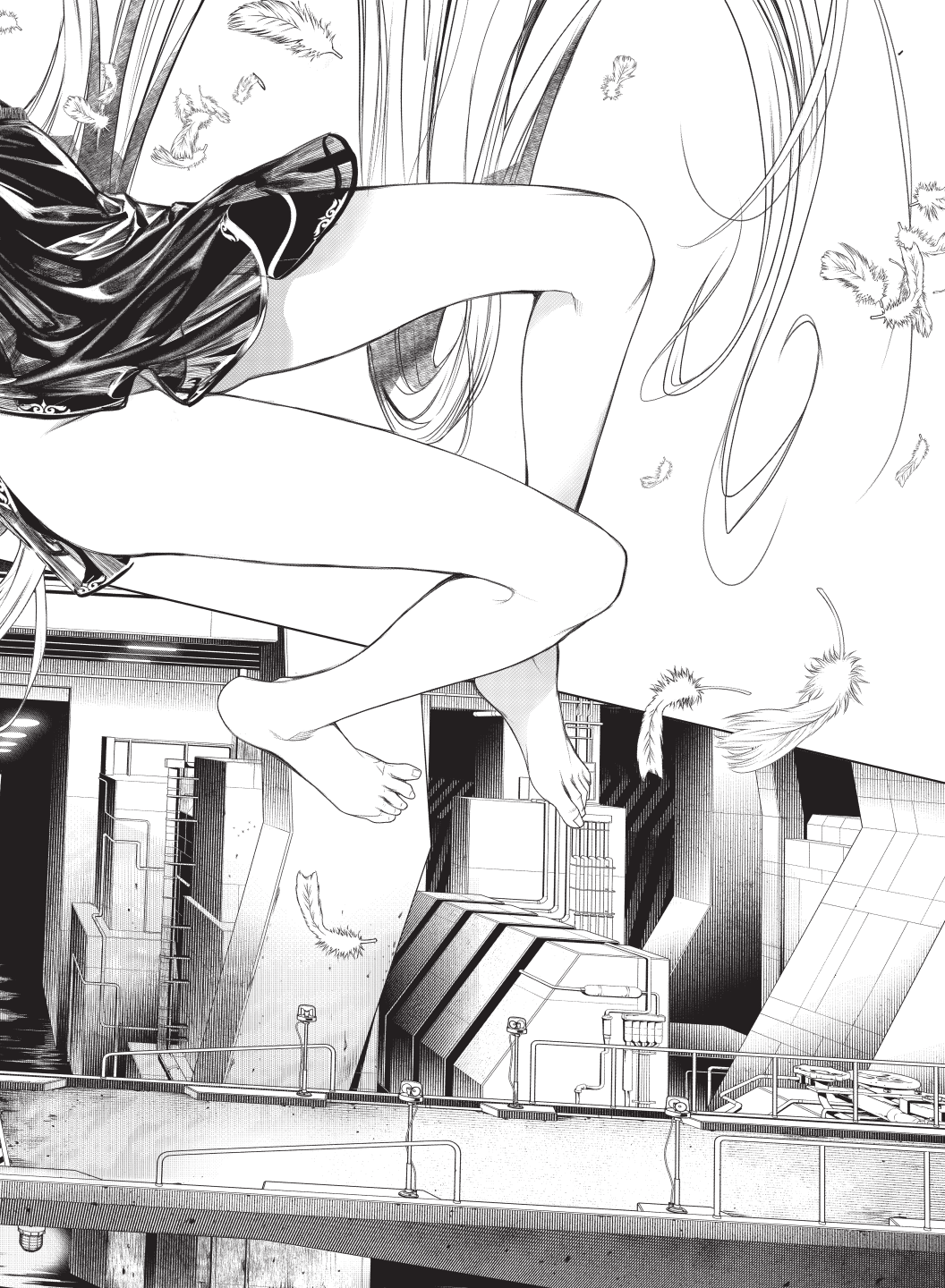
Eh, that's fine. It should do at least some work scattering the bad things...
So you placed the amulet on the door of the main shrine?


There were no traces of anyone entering the main shrine for decades.
Kiss-Shot at the height of her powers would be one thing—but it'd be impossible for present-day Shinobu to come through here without leaving a single footprint in all this piled-up dust.



I even turned into a bat and did a quick search of the sky above.
But the mountain was too vast. It felt like Kaiki was right and that I was just frittering away time.
So I ended up coming back to town completely empty-handed.

Hanekawa knows.
But—now that I think about it...
Whether the mountains or the town,
would it even be possible to find a little girl who ran away of her own volition?
In that case...
I guess my only option—is to believe what he said...
Even if she was right next to me...
...she would only have to hide behind a bit of greenery or a wall like this one and I wouldn't be able to find her. So—
BLOOP



KRASH
LOOK-
ING
FUR
ME?
MROW♡

Cat ...?!!
MROW.
BAKEMONOGATARI

Cut Here

Cut Here
Cut Here
Cut Here

化 *bake*

物 *mono*

TSUBASAcat

18

語 *gatari*

Hey there, human.
MREH
Why?!
Wh...!
Ah!
Dah!
...Whoa!
Ah!

The Afflicting Cat—
"Black Hanekawa."
BLUP
Why are you here...?!
You—
Why are you— dressed like...
And wait!

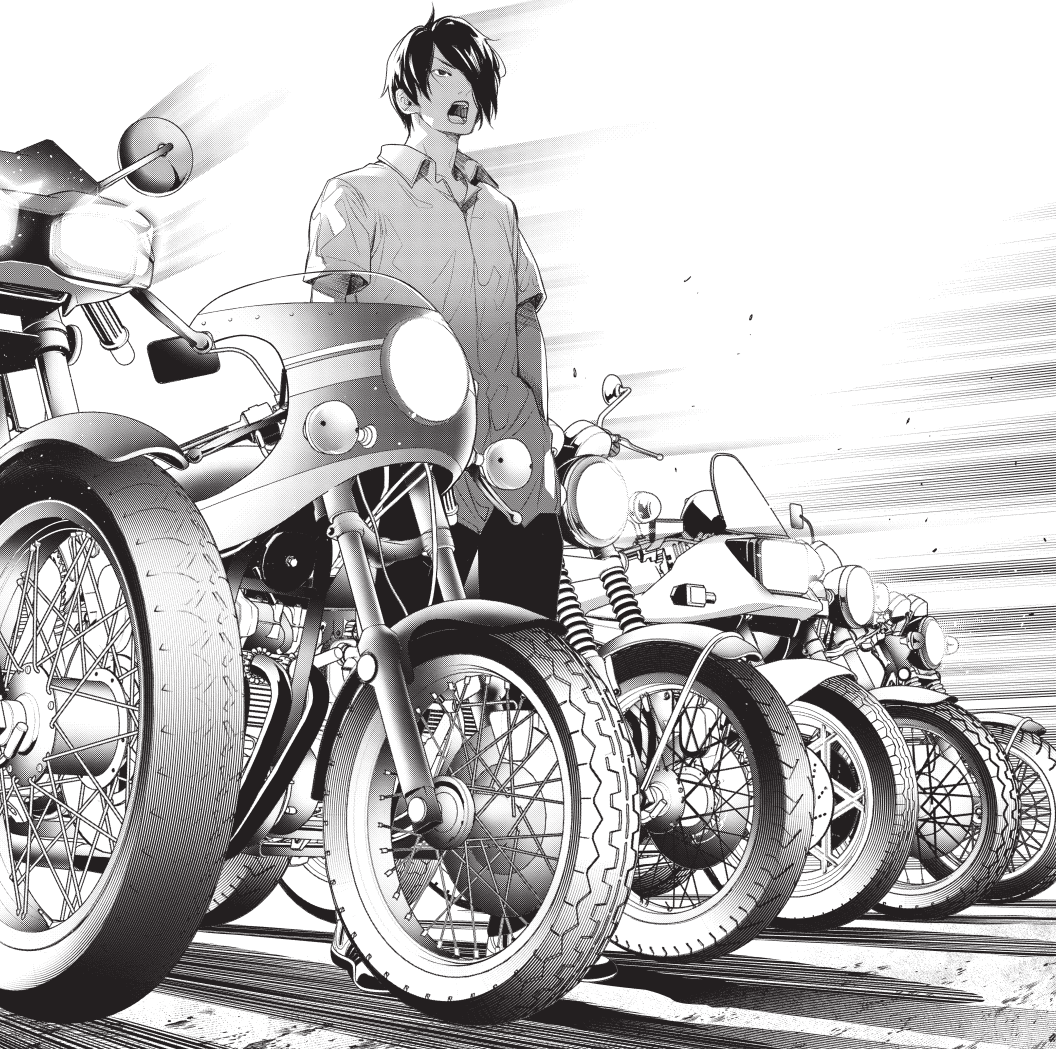
But my back was so confident before. It firmly claimed that she wasn't wearing anything under those pajamas...
Did she go out of her way to change before this?!
Are you telling me that all this time, she's been wearing sexy lingerie like this under her pajamas...?!
You...
No, wait. More impor-tantly...
Heh.
Stop giving me that dubious look, human.
It's not like I'm here to do anything nyawty.

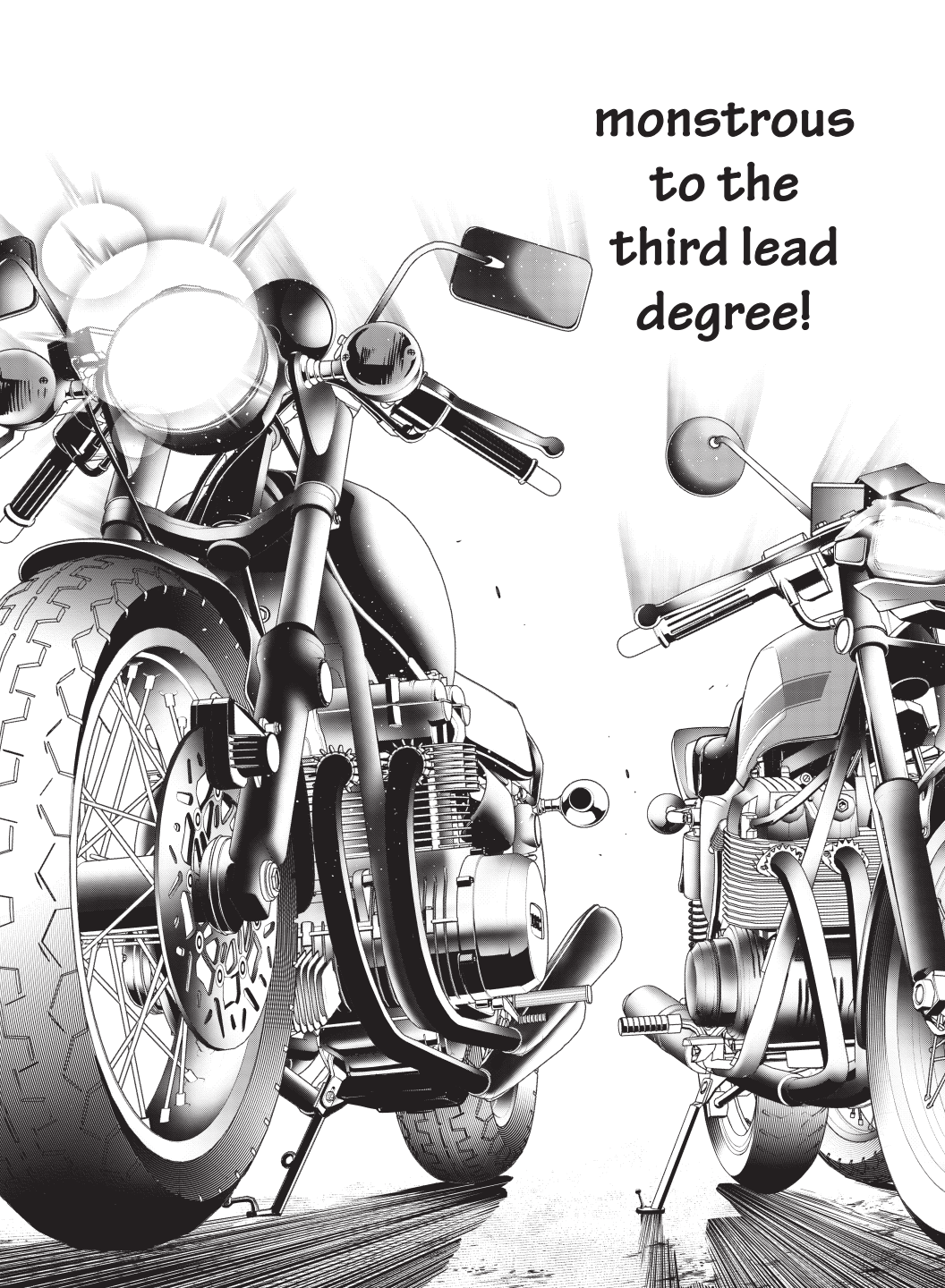
Nyot sure what happened exactly, but after pawing around for a little while, that seal just undid itself a minute ago— and after that, I just followed your scent here.
MYA HA HA HA
The seal— came undone ?!
Just on its own?!
Oshino—
You're proving to be incredibly useless this time around.
This...*isn't like you.*
Whether it comes to her, or Shinobu leaving home.

Mrow?
BLOOP
TRIP
By the way, cat...
...
Cat.
Repeat the next sentence I say.

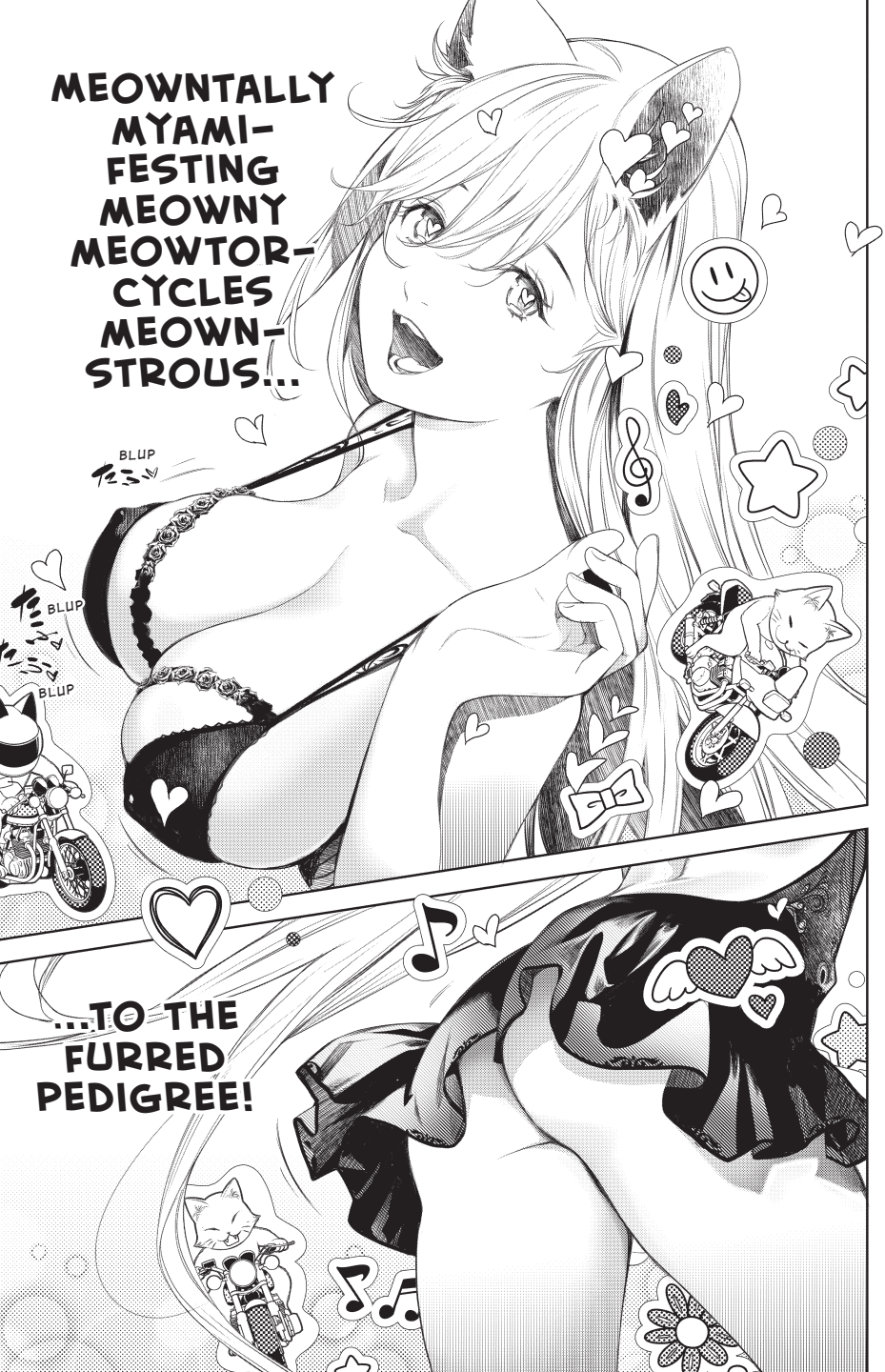
mentally manifesting many motorcycles

Now, the manic maniac mused,




monstrous
to the
third lead
degree!

MEOW,
THE MYANIC
MYANIYAC
MEWED,
BLUP
BLUP
BLUP
BLUP
BLUP
BLUP
AFFLICTING


MEOWNTALLY MYAMI-FESTING MEOWNY MEOWTOR-CYCLES MEOWN-STROUS...
BLUP
BLUP
BLUP
...TO THE FURRED PEDIGREE!

SO!
BRRRRIP
BRRRRIP

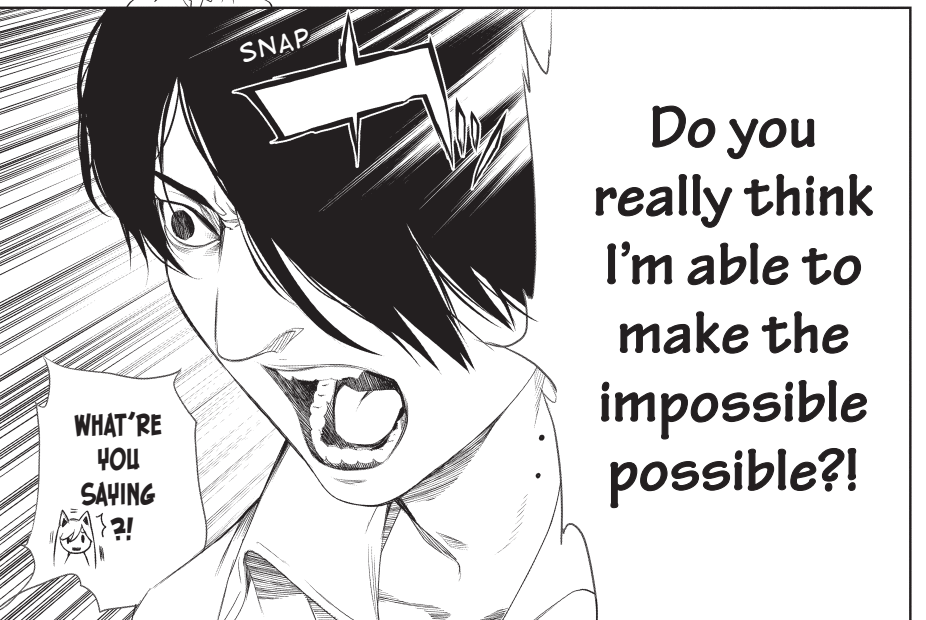
DAMN!
CUTE!
This is heaven.
So this is it.

Though overcome with the sudden desire to throw everything out the window and spend all night jumping rope with her...
...I contented myself with a healthy dose of cat talk.
A brilliant call if I do say so myself.
BUT WAIT, WHY AREN'T YOU WEARING ANYTHING UNDERNEATH ?!
Mrow?
DOWN THERE! BELOW!
What are you paws-sibly talking about ?!
I'm fine being in the nyude, but for sanitary reasons, my myaster's body needs to...
FLIP
ぴらっ
パタ
THP
...

AND WHY'D IT TAKE YOU SO LONG TO REALIZE ?!
NOW THAT'S UNMEOW-TURAL! AS FISHY AS IT GETS!
I DON'T WANT SOMEONE LIKE YOU CALLING ME SUSPICIOUS! NOT AFTER YOU CAME FLYING DOWN WITH NO UNDER-WEAR ON!
W...WELL, I THINK IT'S FINE! I'M A CAT, AFTER ALL! IT'S NYORMAL FOR ME TO BE NYUDE!
MYAHA-HAHAHA!
...MEOW!
FLIP
FWOOSH
FLUTTER FLUTTER FLUTTER
I guess Oshino and I are really the only ones who recognize her as Hanekawa, anyway.
Wait, no. This is no time for me to start an erotic comedy routine with her...
S-So I guess I should just continue, and...

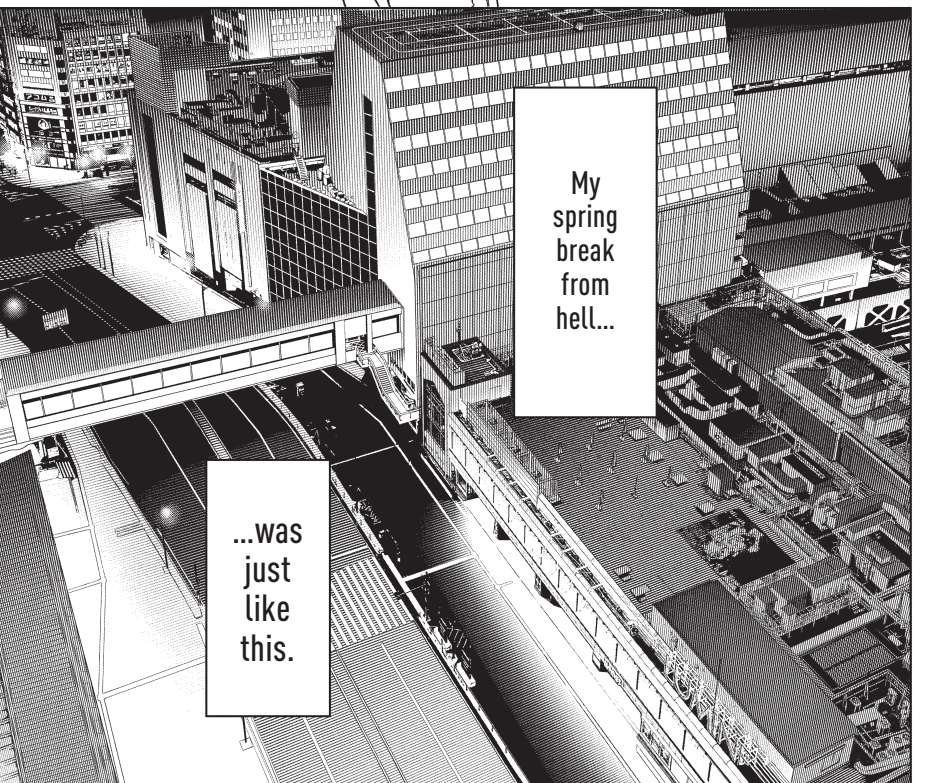
What's she even here for anyway...?
And you know...
Oh, shut your meowth.
NO! THIS IS NOT OKAY!
EVEN IF YOU'RE OKAY WITH IT, I'M NOT!
THWAP
FWP
FWP
FWP
She said she's not here to do anything naughty, but...
Ladies Underwear
¥680
(incl. tax ¥734.4)
Cozy Lifestyle
COTTON LADIES SHORTS
Excuse me...? Uhh... Does anyone work here?
Umm...
Umm... I'm in a hurry...so I'll just leave my money here.

UH— HOLD UP, WAIT!
I TOLD YOU TO HIDE!
PUT THOSE ON SOME-WHERE OUT OF SIGHT!
You say the strang-est things.
Mew can just look away.


SNAP
WHAT'RE YOU SAYING ?!
Do you really think I'm able to make the impossible possible?!

Cats may not be very intelligent— but you're not one to talk.
No myatter how I'm dressed—
we're still the only ones here.
UOTAMI
TAX FREE
SUIT
AOKI
TOKIWA
KOBAN
KANBARU BANK
KANBARU BANK

When I was in the mountains...
...
...
...I was in contact with powerful spiritual energy.
That must be why...
...this seemed familiar.


My spring break from hell...
...was just like this.

The two of us, alone—right?

Araragi.

It's time...

...to settle this.

Well, I guess I don't have to worry about upholding Hanekawa's honor, then.

...I see.

Time to fight!

ゴゥ... WOOSH

Let's do this!

In that case, take off those panties!

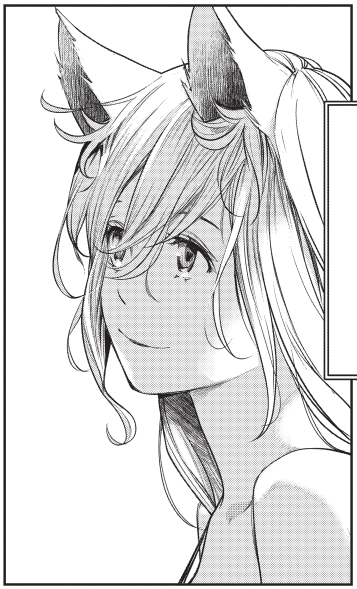
...

That's too filthy, Araragi...

BAKEMONOGATARI

2

We love without reason, and without reason we hate.



Though the tale of Tsubasa Hanekawa is my tale,

it is not one that I can tell.

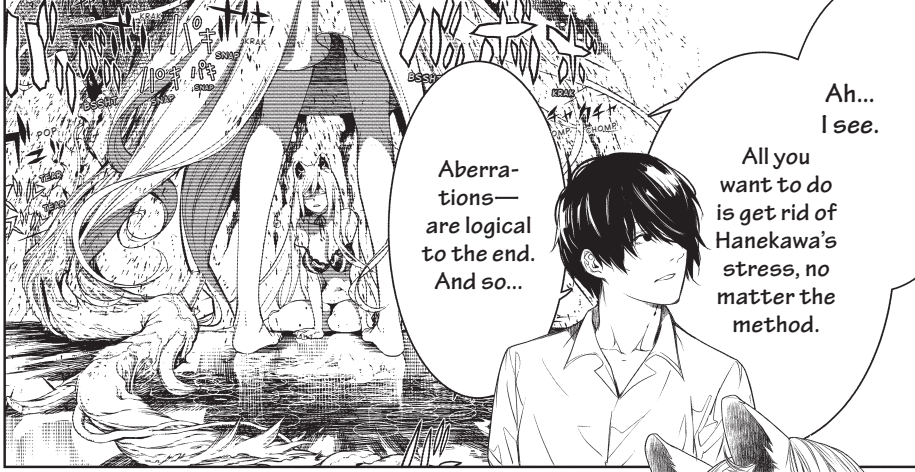
FLTTR
FLTTR
I believe there was once a great author who said he found it hard to believe that he was himself down to the tips of his outstretched toes—
That's because I can't even define the extent to which I am me.
Hey, Hanekawa. Don't walk in front of me looking like that.
But I don't even need to extend my legs.
I'm not even sure if the mind in my head is my own.
What's the myatter? Do you even get turned on by convenience-store underwear you bought yourself?
WELL, HOW DO I PUT THIS... IT MAKES PANTIES FEEL LESS VALUABLE TO ME...

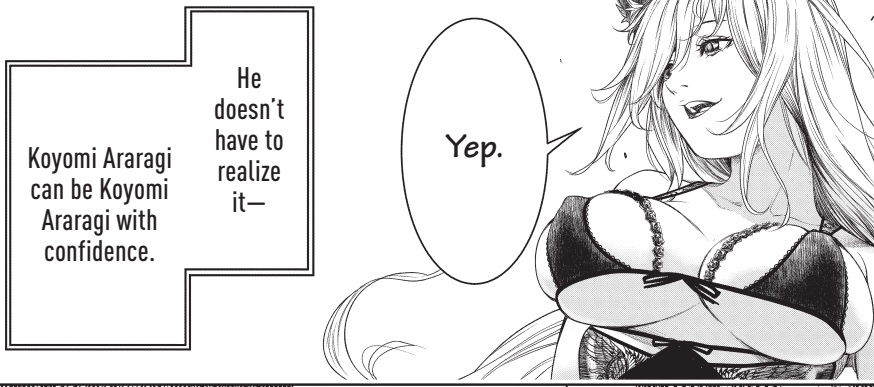
To begin with, the name Tsubasa Hanekawa is already unstable.
Then ...
THP
Am I— me?
Is there a me other than me— that's still me?
Okay ...
BOOM
PAK
VWOOSH
My family name has changed a number of times.

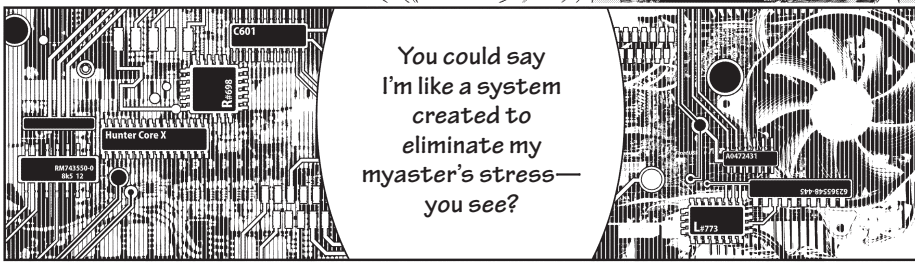
The reason I haven't been facing myself all this time...
Which is why I've started to think that names ...
...are nothing more than signifiers.
...could be due to the fact that I never recognized my name as my own—that I never recognized it as an indicator of my self.

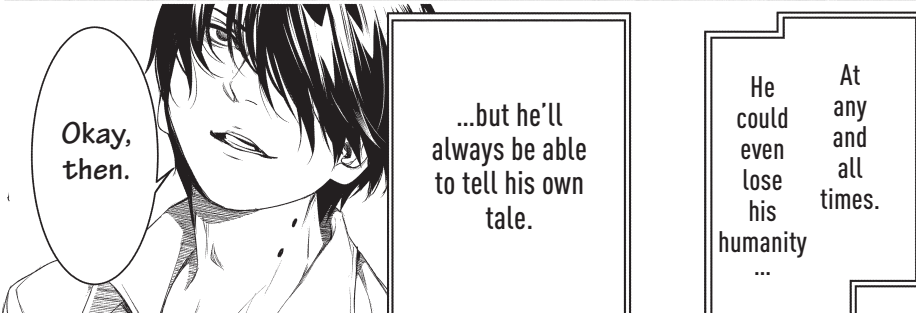
I can only transform on that mountain.
Let me know if you find some-thing.
IT'S FASTER TO SEARCH FROM ABOVE!
HURRY IT UP, VAMPIRE.
Don't be ridicu-lous.
Insurance Accepted
KOBAYASHI DE
Of course ...
...I imagine Araragi doesn't worry himself to a standstill with these kinds of ideas.
And that makes me—
embar-rassed for myself.

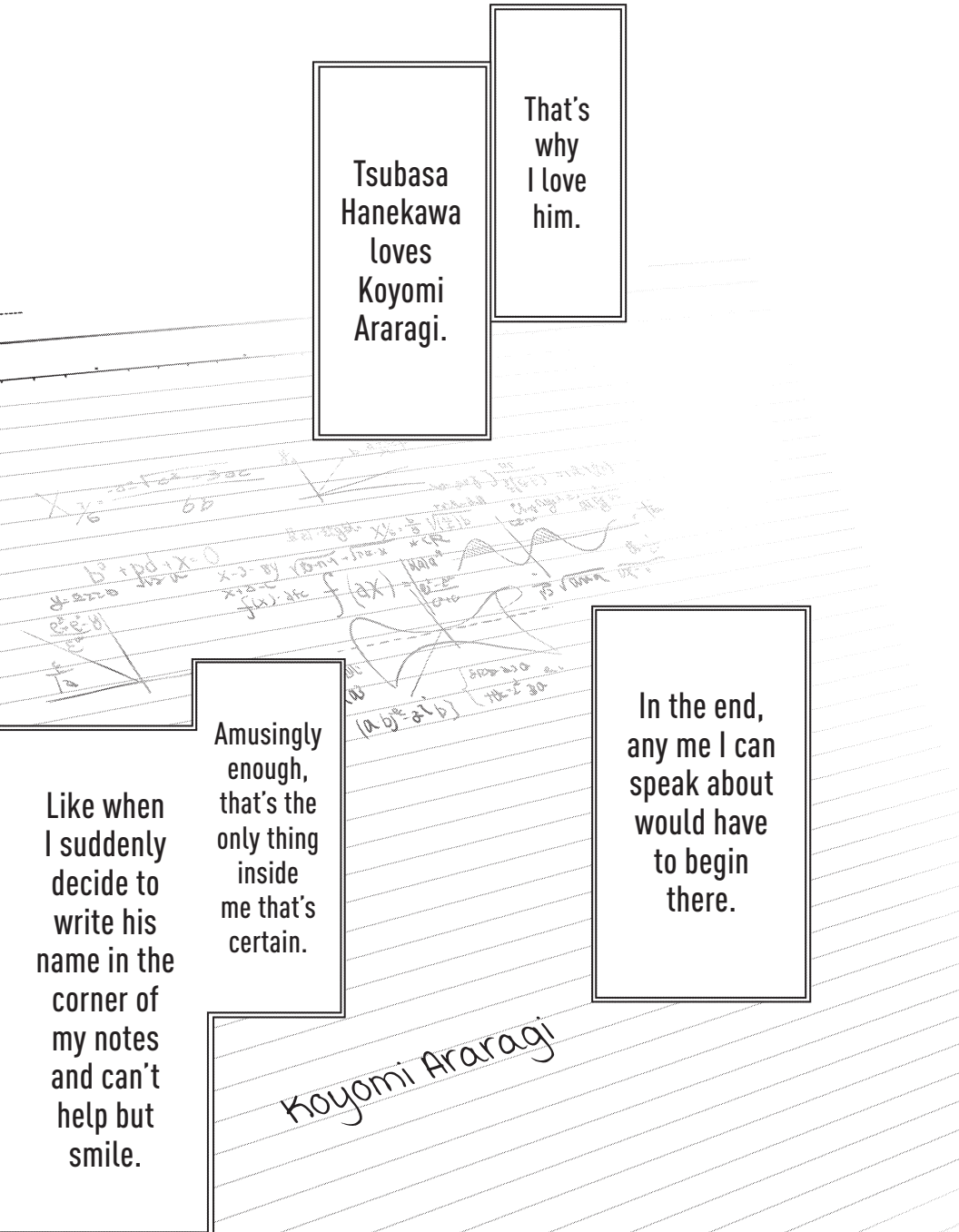
I still feel like thanking ya.
During Golden Week—well, your meowthods mighta been a little rough.
But you were able to settle *things* in just nine days.
Maybe he doesn't realize it.
...And so you're helping me look for Shinobu—as your way of paying me back?
That's right.
But it's clear to anyone around him—as clear as day.


Aberrations—are logical to the end. And so...
Ah... I see.
All you want to do is get rid of Hanekawa's stress, no matter the method.


Koyomi Araragi can be Koyomi Araragi with confidence.
He doesn't have to realize it—
Yep.

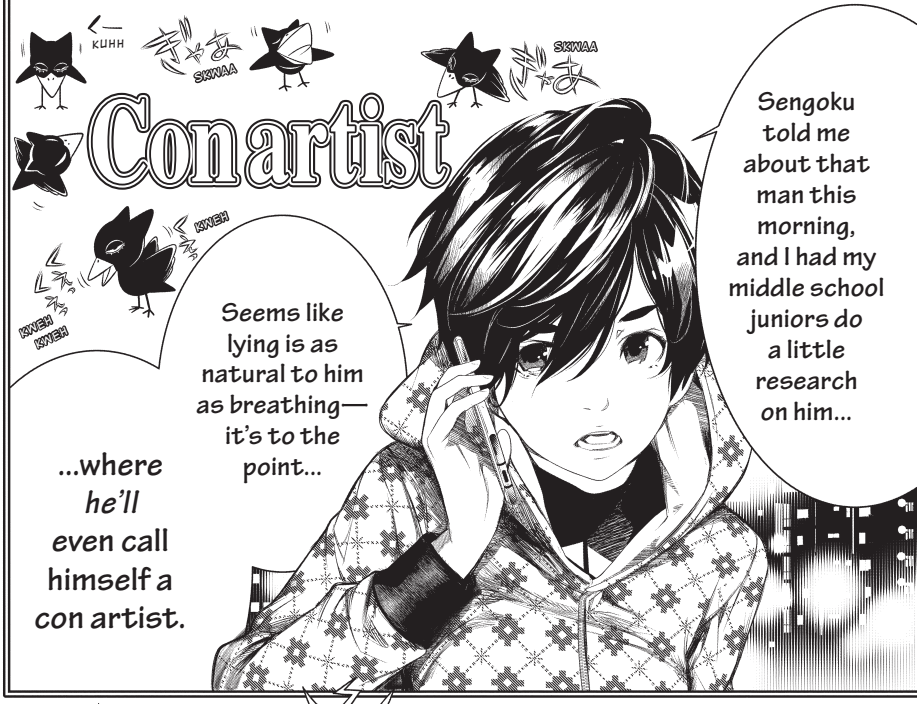

You could say I'm like a system created to eliminate my myaster's stress—you see?
C601
R698
Hunter Core X

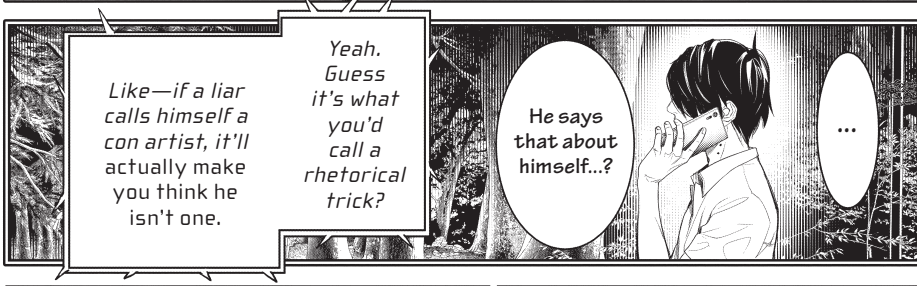

Okay, then.
...but he'll always be able to tell his own tale.
At any and all times.
He could even lose his humanity ...

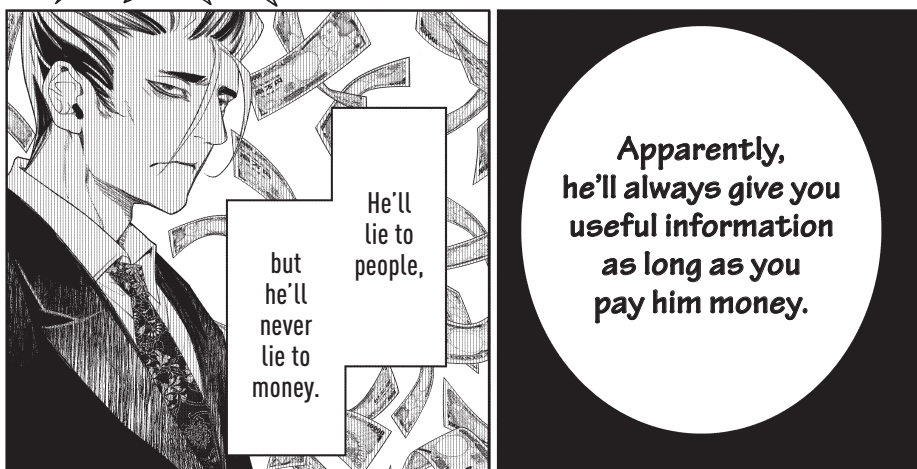

Tsubasa Hanekawa loves Koyomi Araragi.
That's why I love him.
In the end, any me I can speak about would have to begin there.
Amusingly enough, that's the only thing inside me that's certain.
Like when I suddenly decide to write his name in the corner of my notes and can't help but smile.
Koyomi Araragi

The amount of stress that my myaster had gathered over 17 years was more myassive than you could ever imyagine.
If I did things like nyormal— it woulda taken a year for me to disappear...
But it'd be too late then.
My myaster wouldn't be able to last that long, in more ways than one.
Which is why— I need to get sucked up by that vampire runt and disappear as soon as possible...
...I under-stand.
In that case— I'd appreciate your help.

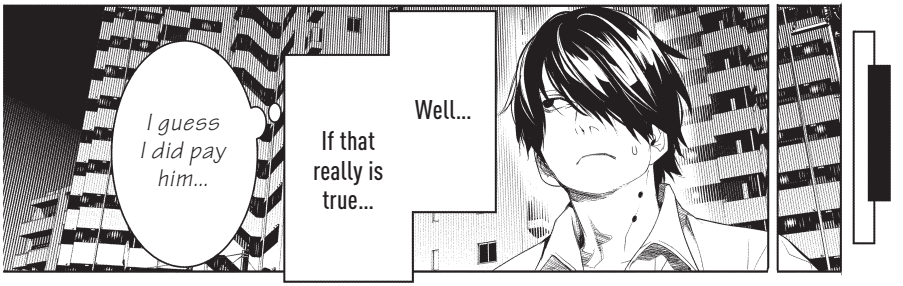
Hanekawa knows where she is.
SMIRK
Or rather— *who* do I trust?
What... do I trust?
Then again...
Deishu Kaiki—
That crow-like man—
his words.
I think I'm starting to get the idea, my senior Araragi.
Yep.


KUHH
SKWAA
SKWAA
Con artist
KWEH
KWEH KWEH
Seems like lying is as natural to him as breathing—it's to the point...
...where he'll even call himself a con artist.
Sengoku told me about that man this morning, and I had my middle school juniors do a little research on him...


Like—if a liar calls himself a con artist, it'll actually make you think he isn't one.
Yeah. Guess it's what you'd call a rhetorical trick?
He says that about himself...?
...


He'll lie to people,
but he'll never lie to money.
Apparently, he'll always give you useful information as long as you pay him money.

Then I guess that makes it a very reliable, well-known rumor—huh.
Okay. Thanks, Kanbaru.

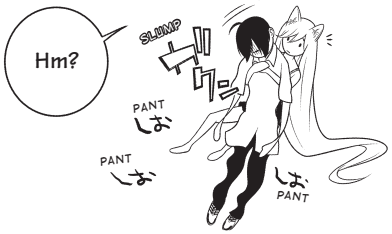

I guess I did pay him...
If that really is true...
Well...

...
What *does* that mean?
Uhh... Yeah...
Which would mean...
That would make *everything* he said...
SMIRK
...a true *statement*.

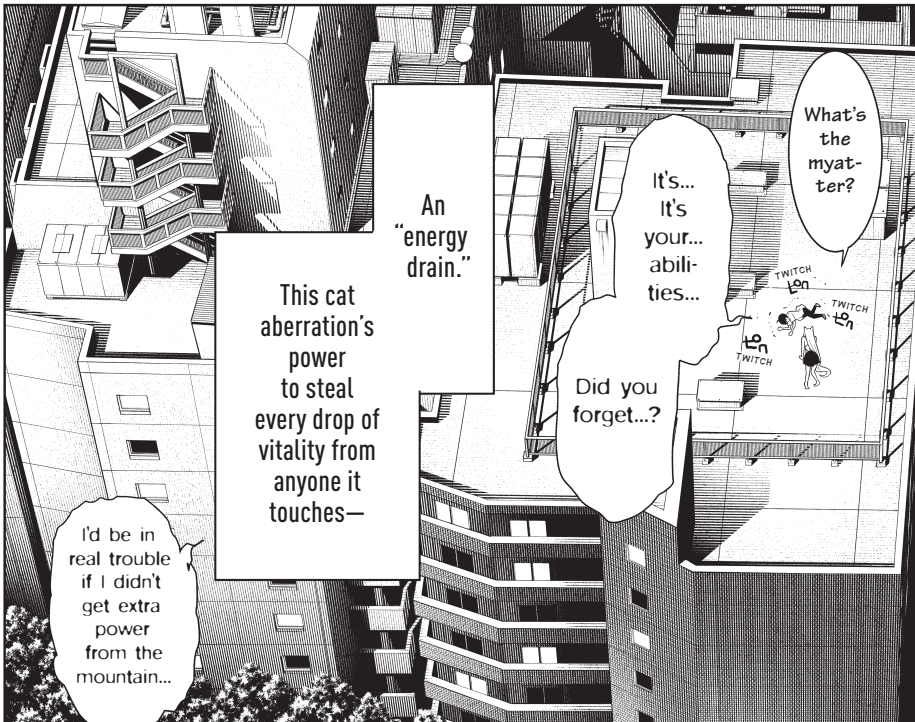
BZOOF

I'll bring you up with me.
Your legs are too slow.
Times
KRASH
URGH ...?!

SWOOOOSH


Hm?
SLURP
PANT
PANT
PANT

GAH!
AH
AH
AH
AH
OH—
URGH—
I'LL SHAKE

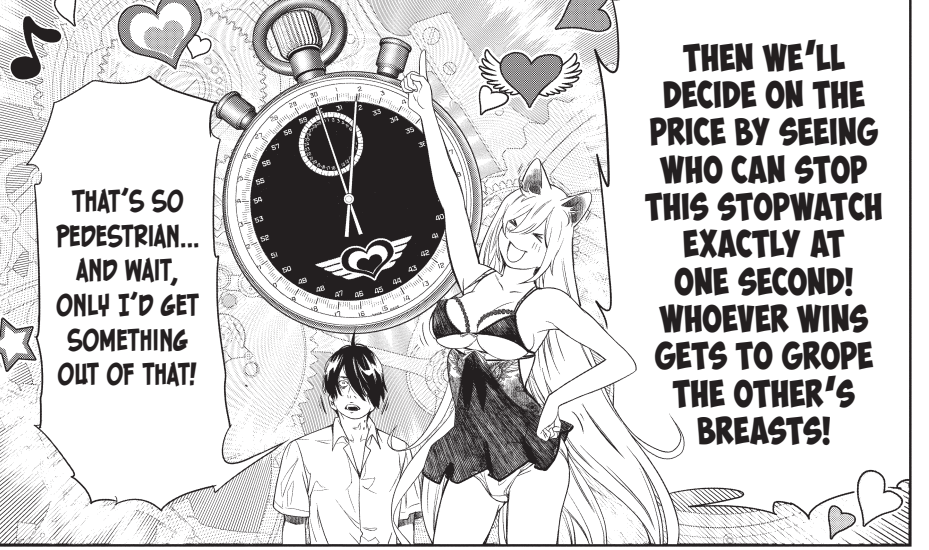

What's the myat-ter?
It's... It's your... abili-ties...
TWITCH
TWITCH
TWITCH
Did you forget...?
An "energy drain."
This cat aberration's power to steal every drop of vitality from anyone it touches—
I'd be in real trouble if I didn't get extra power from the mountain...

...I may be an idiot, but you're a pretty big one yourself...
MY MYASTER'S BREASTS FELT SO GOOD THAT YOU PASSED OUT?!
AH! NYOW I GET IT, HUMAN!
AHEM
...
...I've been cured of my desire to spend all night jumping rope with her.
BOING BOING たぶん たぶん
BOING BOING たぶん たぶん
...Though thanks to that...
WHAT A BOOB BARGAIN!
MM HMMMM?
I-I-IF YOU'RE THAT DESPURRATE FOR IT... I'LL LET YA MYASSAGE THESE BREASTS FOR ONE PACK OF BONITO FLAKES PURR GROPE!
Hey. Human.
What?

STOP TRYING TO SELL YOUR MASTER'S CHASTITY!
HANE-KAWA'S BREASTS ARE MORE, WELL...
YOU KNOW! YOU KNOW— BUT!
IF THAT REALLY WAS THE OFFERING PRICE, I'D PAY SIXTY YEARS' WORTH UPFRONT FOR AN EXCLUSIVE CONTRACT!

Huh?! Sixty years? —What's that mean?!
MEE-OW!
TWING
BOING
BOING
YHOORAY!
YHOORAY!
ACTUALLY, ONE PORTION OF CATNIP INSTEAD... NO, ONE PORTION OF CAT FOOD!

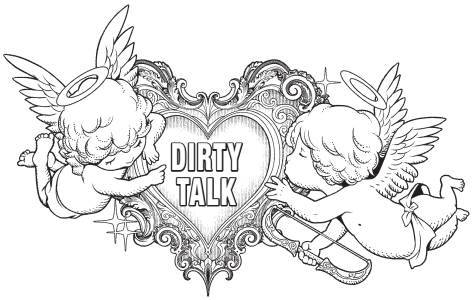
IT'S TOO LATE TO RAISE THE PRICE ON ME... OR WAIT!
AREN'T YOU ACTUALLY GIVING ME A DISCOUNT?!
THERE'S NO POINT IN JUST CHANGING THE UNIT!
Hmm...
Okay, fine...


THAT'S SO PEDESTRIAN... AND WAIT, ONLY I'D GET SOMETHING OUT OF THAT!
THEN WE'LL DECIDE ON THE PRICE BY SEEING WHO CAN STOP THIS STOPWATCH EXACTLY AT ONE SECOND! WHOEVER WINS GETS TO GROPE THE OTHER'S BREASTS!

She seems way too suspicious when I really think about this.
...I'll use this conversation as an opening to figure out what she really wants.
STOP FOCUSING ON THE NUMBER ONE! YOU'VE GOT TWO BREASTS, RIGHT?!
For now...

In any case, we need to get away from the topic of boobs...
YOU'RE IN LUCK! CATS'VE GOT EIGHT BREASTS ON NYAVER-AGE!
I DUNNO ABOUT THAT KINK...
OH...
Some-thing... seems off...
Is this what you'd call setting the mood?
Umm...

...they get even more excited chatting about dirty nonsense with a female friend...



According to one theory,

while men get excited talking romance with a lover...

BAKEMONOGATARI

Hey, Cat. Will you be okay dressed like that?
Damn.
Rain?
I can't remember.
When was it—
I'm an aber-ration.
that "I" first noticed *it*?
Nyoh need to worry.
That's right. It's not that I forgot it. *I tried not to learn it.*
I cut it off from my memories—from my conscious-ness.

The worst kind of abuse.
Being *un-loved.*
Those hellish days.
Of being *unable to love.*
PLASTIC

It's finally time to face it.
To face myself.
To face the heart I severed myself.
NOBODY
NAOETSU
MYLORD 2
RENEWAL
6.22 THU OPEN
6.9 FRI RENEWAL!
Beef and Eel Bowls
PIG HUT
6.22 NEW OPEN!
DAINA
Men's Formalwear
Noetsu Books
PACHINKO DELDEL
6.9 RENEWAL!
Beef and Eel Bowls
PIG HUT

I think that's...
...the kind of tale this is.
Restaurant Floor 6-7F

Koyomi Araragi
No answer
Mute
Keypad
No answer
...

Hmm
...

Do you have any idea why she myaighta disappeared in the first place?

...No.
None at all.

SNIFF
SNIFF
SNIFF
The vampire runt's scent suddenly goes cold here.

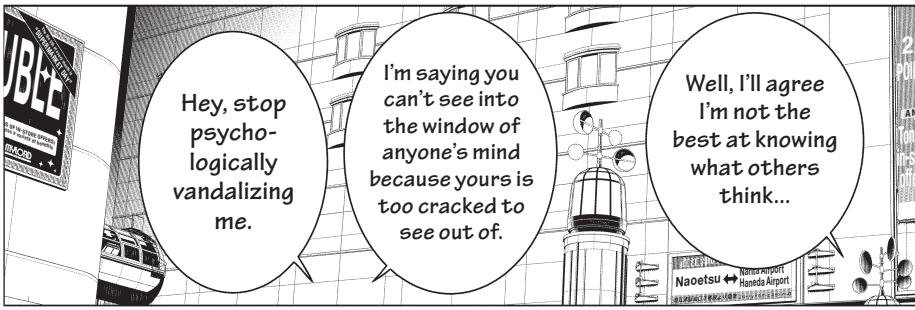
You sure? Maybe all the aberration cases mew've been solving ever since spring break...
...gotcha thinking that you actually *know* what's going on.
Huh ...?
Wh...
Where's that coming from...? You sound like Oshino...
In that case...
I thought I nyeeded ...
...to get a little jab in to see, that's all.

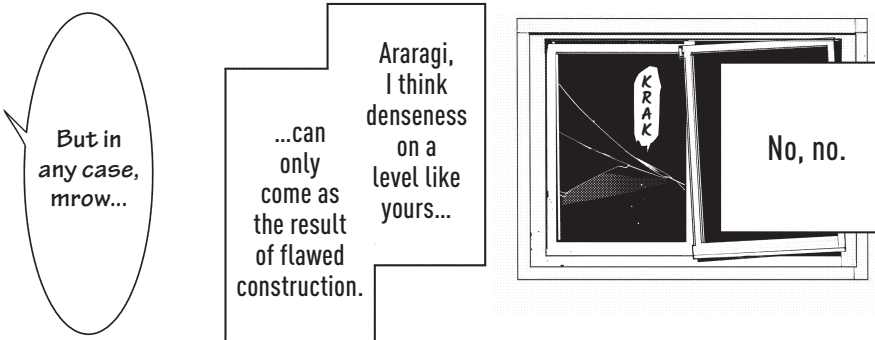
Hold on, Cat.
Are you saying that you know, then?
The reason— why Shinobu disappeared?
Myerp.
Well... I think I kind of nyoh why.
Because— we're the same.
Aberrations nyoh aberrations best.
Listen, human. The word "aberration" explains it all.

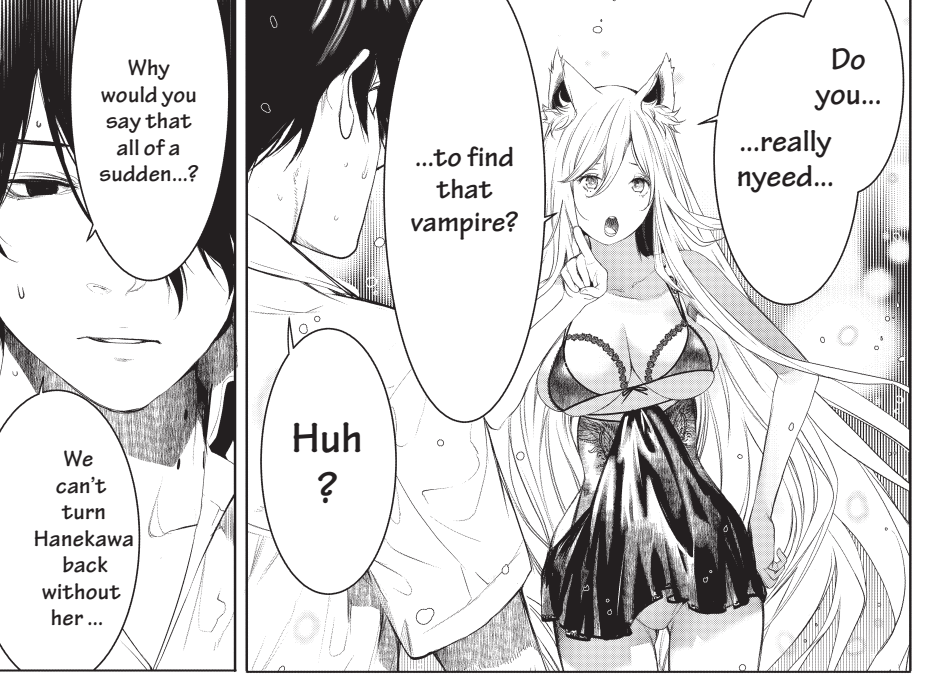
An aberrant, an alteration.
Something different from all of you—
so it's all over fur us if you get used to us.
You nyeed to believe in us, fear us,
be scared of us, loathe us, revere us, be surprised by us...
...hate us, shun us, and make wishes to us.
House
That's how...
...she continyued to exist fur 500 years.
...Now that you mention it...that's true.
I guess at some point,
I started seeing her as a human child.

Yes— that myaight be it.
But that vampire... may nyot have liked the idea...
...of having to be involved with us for all this time.
So you mean—
she didn't want to be lumped in—
with crabs, monkeys, and snakes?
That being placed next to various other aberrations robbed her of what made her special?
That she could no longer differentiate herself from others...
...and because she wasn't able to maintain her own identity—
she decided to run away?

Dense? How so?
Huh ...
I'm saying you've got no insight.
...
Mrow, you're so dense.

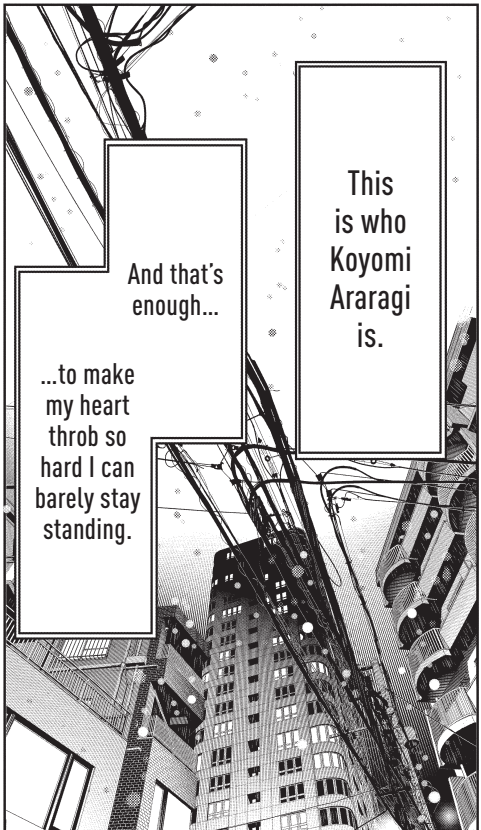

Hey, stop psycho-logically vandalizing me.
I'm saying you can't see into the window of anyone's mind because yours is too cracked to see out of.
Well, I'll agree I'm not the best at knowing what others think...
Naoetsu ↔ Haneda Airport

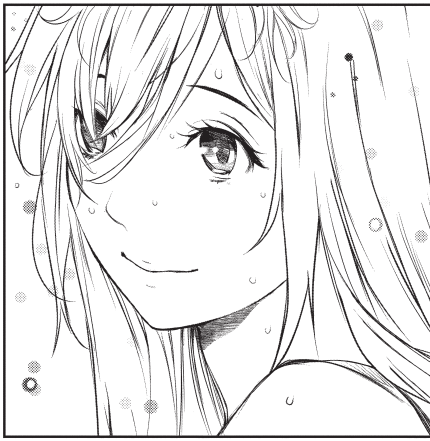

But in any case, mrow...
...can only come as the result of flawed construction.
Araragi, I think denseness on a level like yours...
KRAK
No, no.


Why would you say that all of a sudden...?
We can't turn Hanekawa back without her...
Huh?
...to find that vampire?
Do you...
...really nyeed...

...is pretty convenient for you, nyo?
When you think about it, that vampire just disappearing...
But—*that's* the only purroblem, right?

...and you can turn back into a human any time you want.
Don't forget it.
All you have to do is abandon Shinobu...





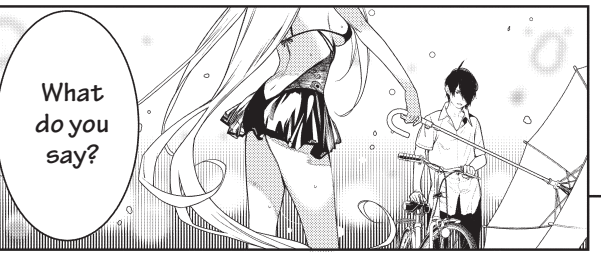
Yeah.

That.

Those words.

Those few words are all it takes.

There's a way to make me pull back without having to rely on this vampire.
But you nyoh, human.


What do you say?

Seems like those cracks cleared right up, mrow.
That's right, Araragi.
That's "it."

...OH!
I...I GET IT!
I ALWAYS ASSUMED THERE WAS NOTHING I COULD DO SO LONG AS I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT WAS CAUSING HANEKAWA'S STRESS—
BUT YOU *ARE* HER STRESS... WHICH MEANS YOU KNOW WHAT IT IS!

I only know what I know—so...
...I don't know—a thing.
POP
And that means you need to know.
?!

...just how painful "it" is—
How painful being *unloved* is.
...
STAAARE
You need to know...
...
?
?!
FSST
...
Hey!

But Araragi...
...do you know? I wonder.
Yeah. You must not know.
I bet you don't know.
But that's okay.
I didn't know, either.
...
Cat?
Are you sure you're not cold?

So, this—

this is the
one thing
I need to say.

I'm...
I'm so in love with you that it turns me into a monster.
...in love with you, mrow.
You need to know that.

Hey.
Araragi.
Araragi.
I'm...
...in love with you, mrow.

I'm...
...completely in love with you, Araragi.
Wha...?

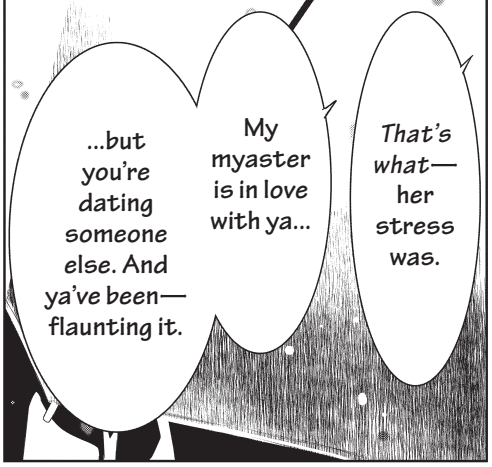
I love you...
Direct Airport Buses from Naoetsu
Naoetsu ⟷ Narita Airport
Haneda Airport
MYLORD
MYLORD 2
ABC
... mrow.

Can we date...

...with marriage in mind?

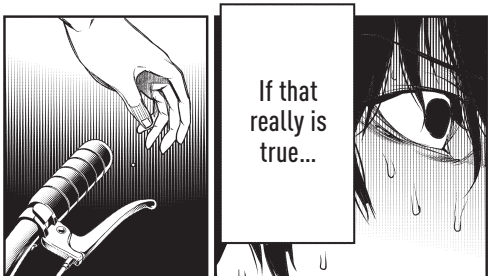
...Wait.
No!
Wrong way.
I wanted to say what I was thinking...
But—
I accidentally added the cat sounds...
W-Well... that was a good try for me...
FIDGET
FIDGET
...this outfit—
it might be more embarrassing than being nude...
Or actually...
...now that I'm back to my "normal" self...
So...
S...
Mrow.

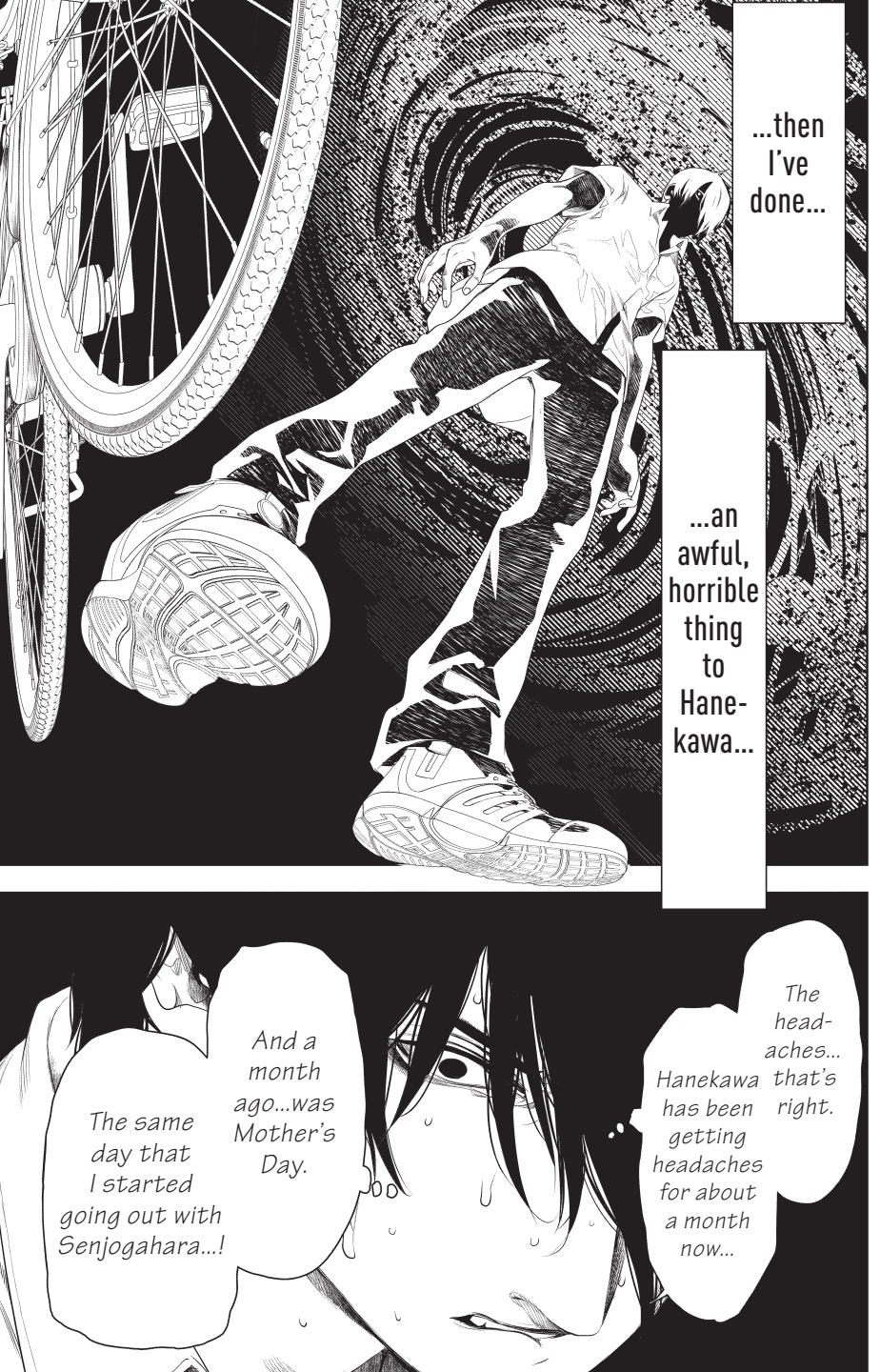
If you love me—I myean ...
...if you love my myaster back...
...then I should be able to get out of the way, but—
...
...
Um
...
...
Are you trying to be funny?
I can't come up with a quip for every stupid setup, you know.
SIGH
Hey.
Cat.


That's what— her stress was.
My myaster is in love with ya...
...but you're dating someone else. And ya've been— flaunting it.

It's true— that's why the "cat" came back, mrow.
AOKI

...No!
N-No way! I mean—
Hanekawa...? She never... really...


If that really is true...


...then I've done...
...an awful, horrible thing to Hanekawa...
The headaches... that's right.
Hanekawa has been getting headaches for about a month now...
And a month ago...was Mother's Day.
The same day that I started going out with Senjogahara...!

But even then... Hanekawa...
She'd still listen and give advice...
...about me and Senjoga-hara.
And that day, too.
When Senjo-gahara and I were together...
THROB
THROB
THROB
...she might have actually been watching us from some-where...

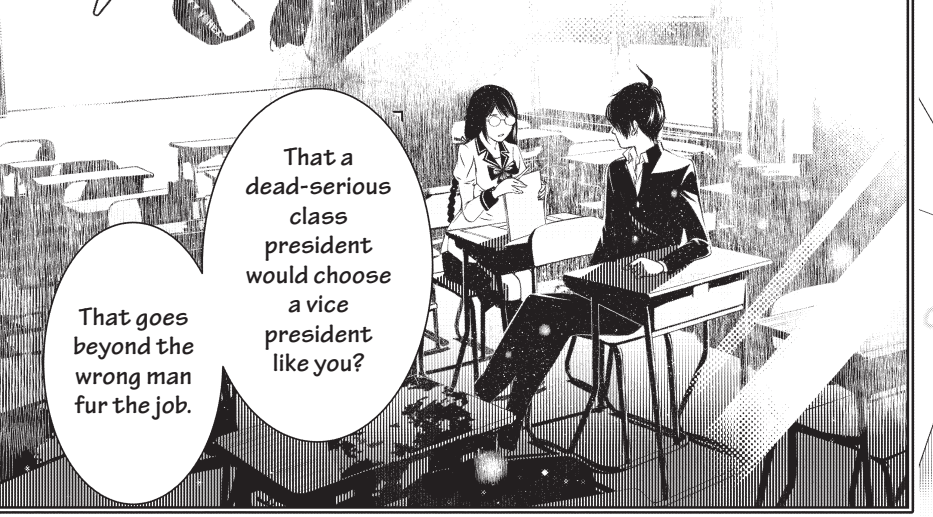
And
that
day,
too—

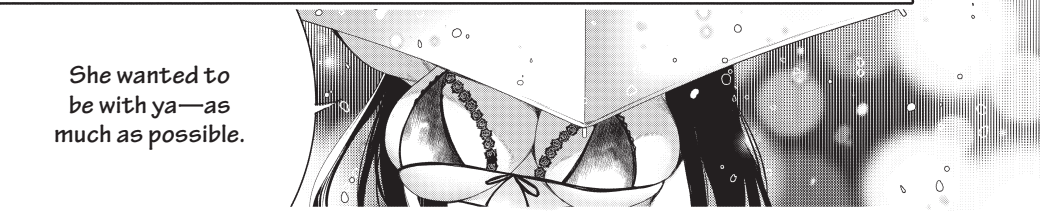
HEY! AREN'T THERE UGLIER MOMENTS YOU OUGHT TO BE THINKING ABOUT RIGHT NOW?!
LIKE THAT TIME! AND THAT TIME!! AND THAT TIME!!! AND THAT TIME !!!!
MROW !
GRR
BSSHT
?!!

Like th...
That time. And that time.
And that time. And...
FLEX
FLEX
JIGGLE
Booble
Theramin

Oh, th-that...
I thought those were all acts of mercy shown to me by a holy mother—a blessing to her wanting incel friend.
WHAT FRIEND WOULD DO THAT?!
KRASH

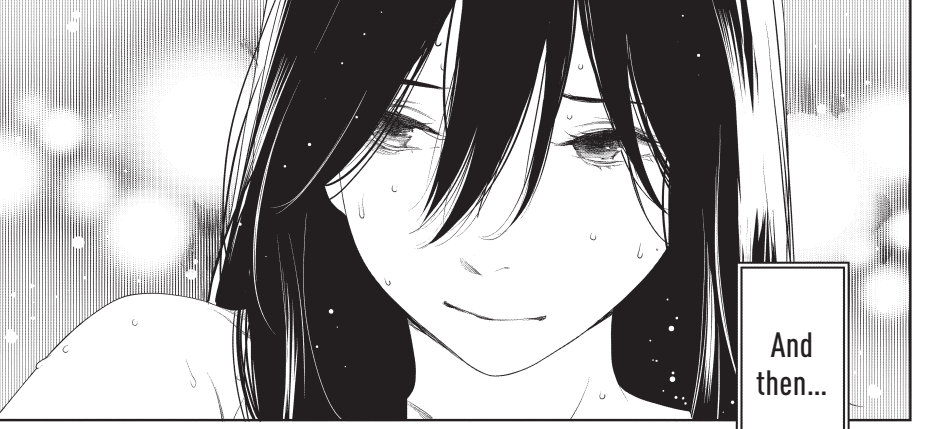
Um, I don't even nyoh what the toiletman jig is...
You could cut my head off, stuff me into a toilet, and force me to dance the toiletman jig, and I'd still have no right to complain...
I'm sorry...
If anything, I'd feel better if you did do that...!
W-Well...
Putting that aside...
I guess I did do things like take my underwear off in front of Araragi.
Maybe it was his chastity that was in greater danger than anyone else's.
KOFF
In any case...
Ya never found it odd?!


That a dead-serious class president would choose a vice president like you?
That goes beyond the wrong man fur the job.


She wanted to be with ya—as much as possible.

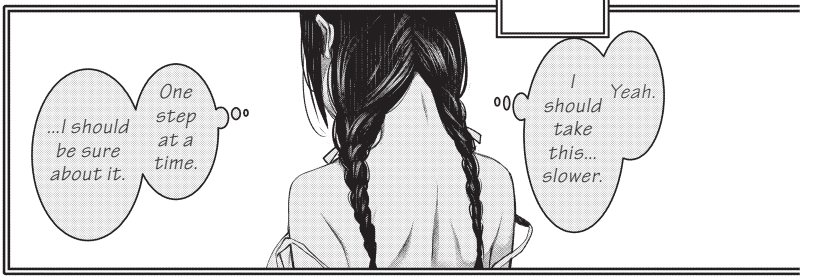
I was happiest ...
...in those moments, Araragi.
I slowly built one bit of joy on top of the next—

But then, my love—
abruptly stopped.
No.
If anything, *that's where it started.*
It's all too late nyow.
She didn't waste a moment—
my rival suddenly appeared, struck first, and settled the battle in the blink of an eye.

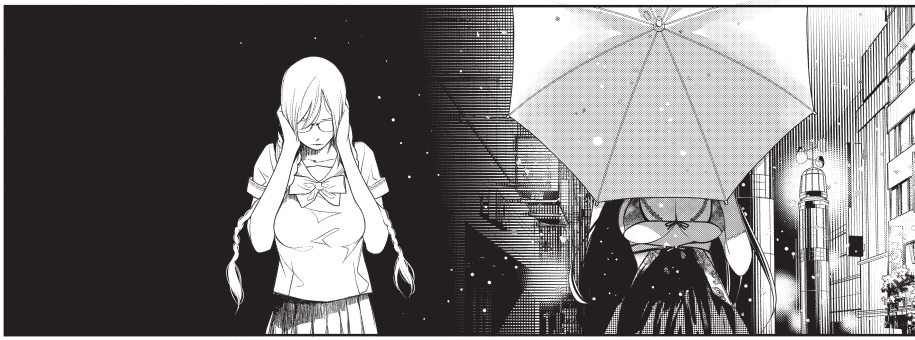


And then...

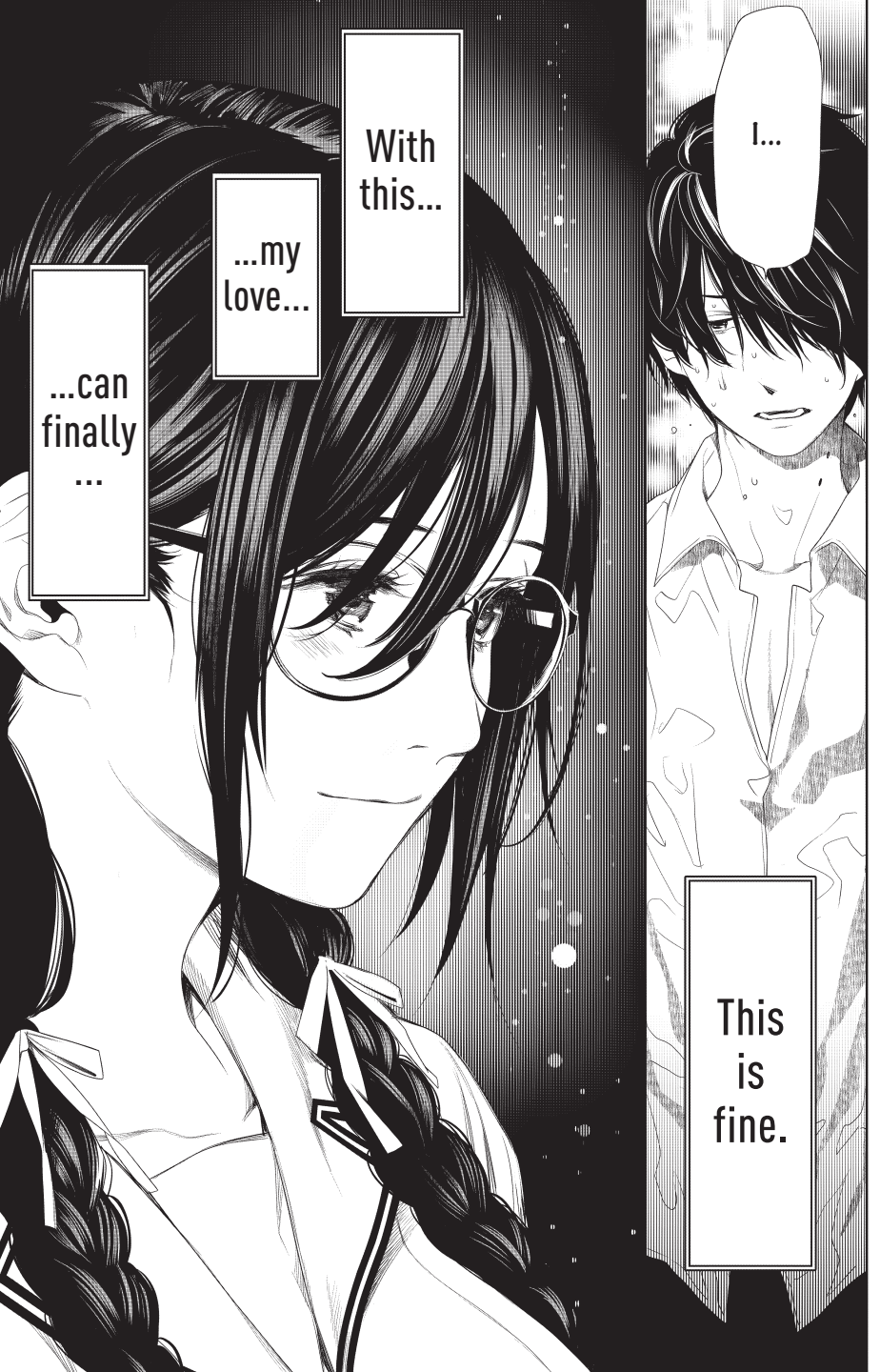
...the ~~romance~~stress built up, one piece at a time.



Hane-
kawa.
I...



...came here to hear these words...!
I...
No. Putting my hands over my ears— wouldn't be any different from what I've done up to this point.


I...
This is fine.
With this...
...my love...
...can finally...

THOOMP
...come to an en—

Hm.
White.

White
—
and how trans-par-ently so.
My ~~romance~~ battle—
it seems, hasn't ended yet.

"White."
It was so transparent.
I was clearly pretending to be pure.
BAKEMONOGATARI
Move.
You...
...will move.

That's right.

A model student.

A class president among class presidents.

Kind to all.

Fair.

Smart.

Like some kind of saint.

Araragi once described me in such terms.

Maybe that "Tsubasa Hanekawa" ...

...was the very first aberration I created.

You will move.
Burn.
I will burn.
It is all too late.
You— are in the way.
If the Afflicting Cat I created was the second, then now— this tiger—
is the third.

This blazing tiger.
What has made it so irritated?
What is it trying to burn?
It came to me instantly— I knew the answer.
Because that tiger is me.
Koyomi Araragi
No answer

TWITCH
TREMBLE
—No.
APA HOTEL
Times
1,560
W…ait.
…

Cat.
Wait—hold on. Are you sure—that's right?
I started dating Senjogahara a month ago—
less than three months after we first met.
Cat, you were created from Hanekawa's stress—
which she built up over the course of seventeen whole years, right?
So—if it was only...
...a few months of romance, then...
MYLORD
"Only"?

FWOOF
ZSSHT
Could it be...
...that you've never actually fallen in love with someone before?

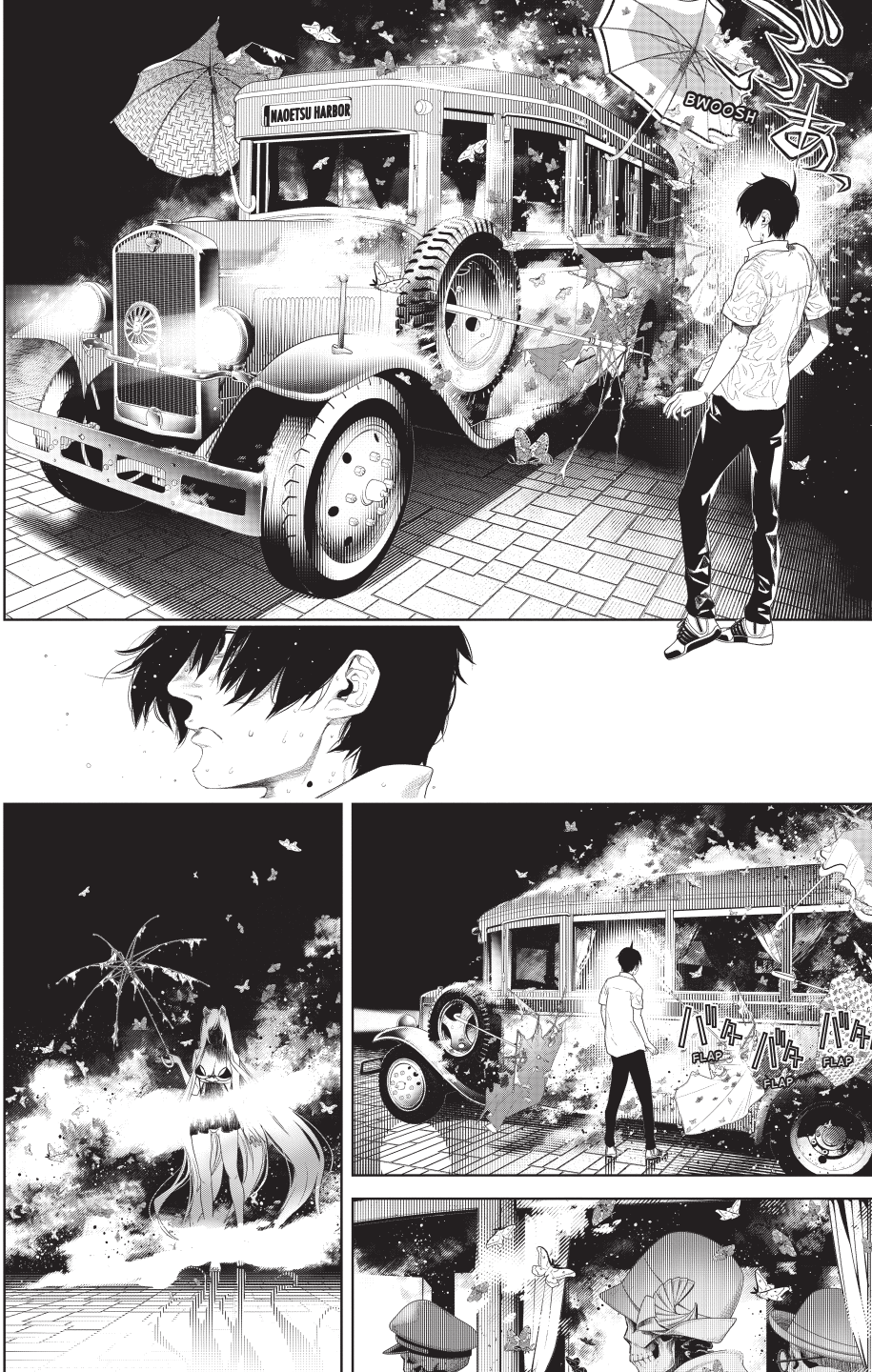
Is there some reason a few months of exacerbated heartbreak shouldn't surpass a dozen or so years of family strife?

Are ya sure...
...you're not just going out with that girl because it's what she insisted on?
If so, you oughta break up right away and go out with my myaster instead.
You'd be just as happy dating anyone, wouldn't ya?
...
Maybe ...
...these blatant provocations...
...should— make me mad.

I have to wonder.
Is it possible that staying out of love can take a conscious effort as well?
So she understood everything...
Hachikuji—I can't believe her.
Because it's true—maybe I was making *that kind of effort* when it came to Hanekawa.
But I—have no right to get angry.
But...
...that's not it... cat.

The two of us...
...had already met.

I love everything about Senjogahara —
her personality included.
I can't choose Hane-kawa.
THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE...
...THAT I'VE REALLY FALLEN IN LOVE WITH SOME-ONE.


NAOETSU HARBOR
BWOOSH
バタ
FLAP
バタ
FLAP
バタ
FLAP

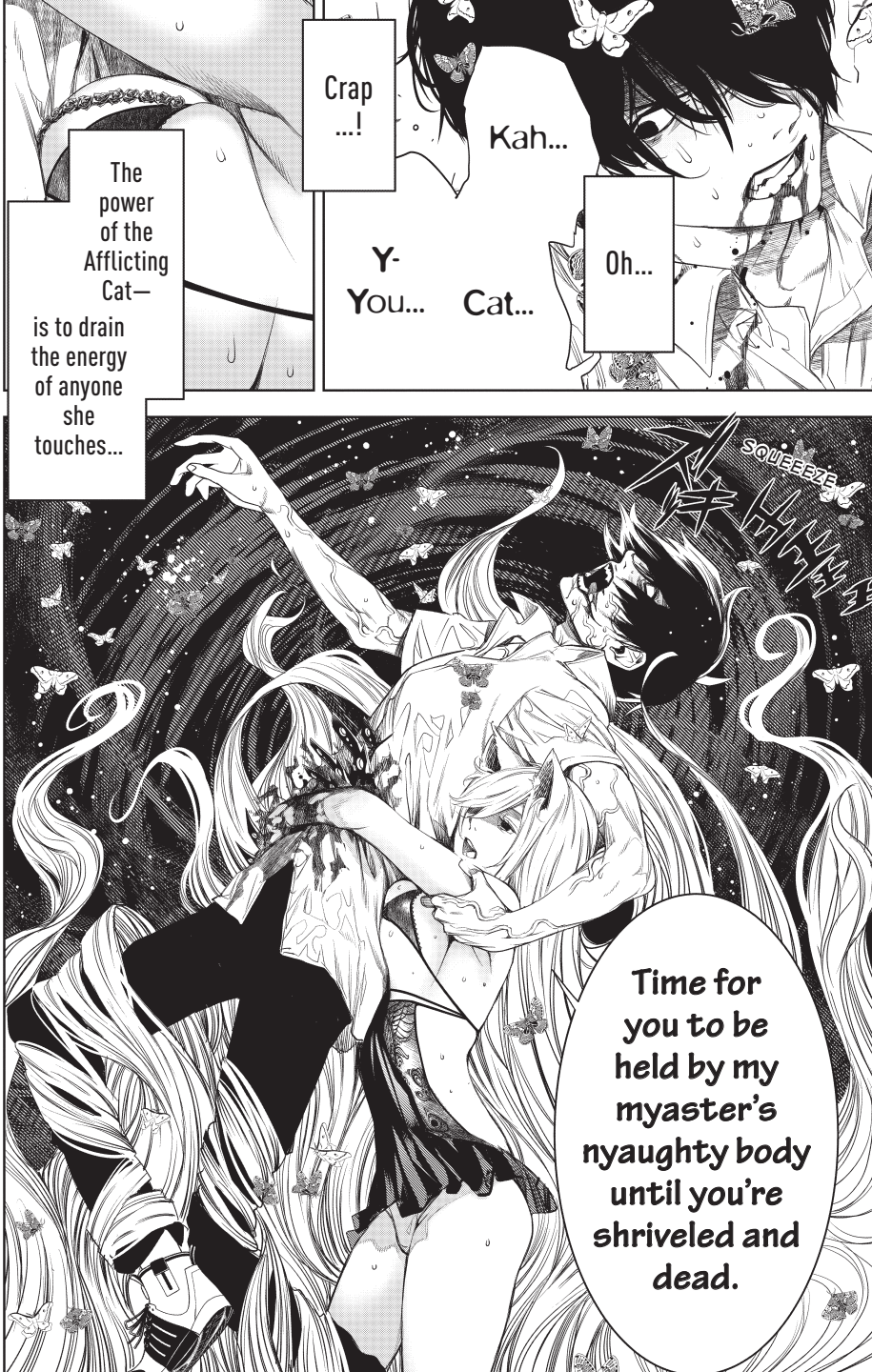
Hmm.
Really nyow.
Hanekawa... is my savior.
I'd do anything I could for her.
I see...
You dating my myaster woulda been the easiest way, but...
GRIN

There's actually — one more way.
A quick and efficient way—
to get me out without relying on that vampire runt.
Huh?
THERE IS?! WHAT IS IT?!
MYEH HEH HEH! ♡
WALK FOR ME A BIT!
YEP— KEEP GOING A LITTLE MORE!
YEP, YOU'RE RIGHT BELOW IT NYOW!
Below what?

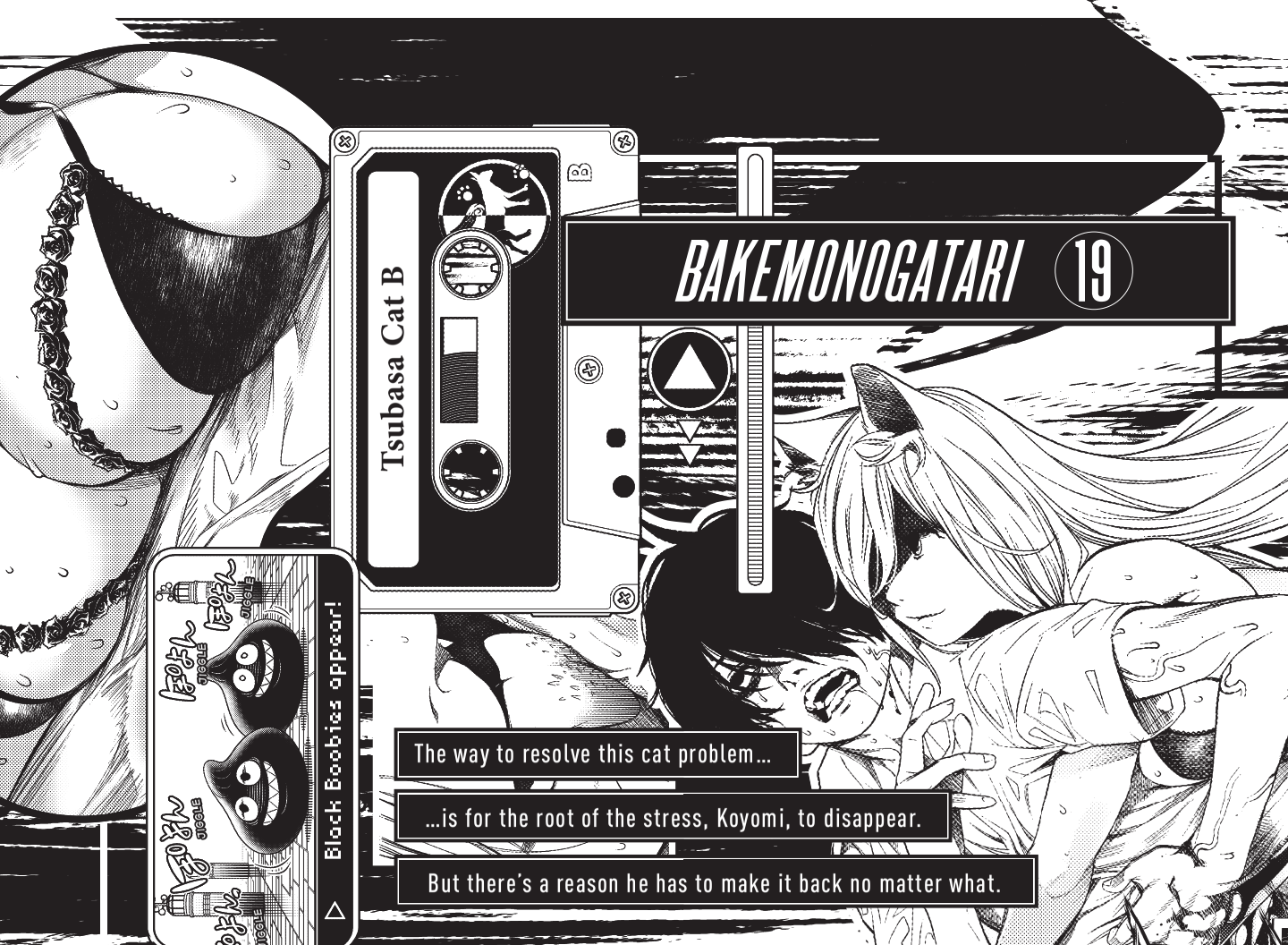
SHINK
What do I do here?
So, cat?
...

POP
BOOM

Get rid of you, and that gets rid of me, too.
TRASH
NON-BURNABLE
DISPOSE
The cause of the stress. The stress itself.
Nyice and simple.
I'm just gonna hang onto you for now.


The power of the Afflicting Cat—
is to drain the energy of anyone she touches...
Crap ...!
Kah...
Y-
You...
Cat...
Oh...
SQUEEEZE
Time for you to be held by my myaster's nyaughty body until you're shriveled and dead.

Continued in Volume 19


BAKEMONOGATARI 19
Tsubasa Cat B
Black Boobies appear!
The way to resolve this cat problem...
...is for the root of the stress, Koyomi, to disappear.
But there's a reason he has to make it back no matter what.

Next Volume Preview
たくなく
死に
Please! Somebody, somebody, somebody, somebody!
I don't want to die!
Save me! Save me!
Please, please, save me!
I'm sorry, I'm sorry!
Willing to do anything to survive...
...he raises his voice, and then—!
Tsubasa Cat's B-side.
COMING AUGUST 2023!
SCREEEEEK

BAKEMONOGATARI (manga) 18

Kodansha Digital Edition

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